

STORY AND ART BY
NATSUKI KIZU

6

given

A black and white manga illustration of two young men in a close embrace. The man on the left has light-colored, spiky hair and is wearing a jacket, with his mouth open as if singing or shouting. The man on the right has dark, spiky hair and is also wearing a jacket, holding a microphone to the first man's mouth. The background is a solid yellow color with scattered red and pink triangular confetti. The title 'given' is written in a large, white, serif font across the middle of the image.





Given

Story and Art by **Natsuki Kizu**

volume **6**

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given

VOLUME 6

NATSUKI KIZU



UGETSU MURATA

Violin prodigy who's interested in Mafuyu's talent. Had been in an intense but troubled relationship with Akihiko since their high school days, until Akihiko recently broke it off for good.



HARUKI NAKAYAMA

(BASSIST)

Graduate student at the same university as Akihiko. The leader of the band, as well as its manager and peacemaker. After a lot of drama, he and Akihiko are now finally together.



MAFUYU SATO

(GUITAR & VOCALS)

High school classmate of Uenoyama's. Has an impressive singing voice. Attached to Uenoyama ever since he fixed Mafuyu's guitar, a keepsake from Mafuyu's former boyfriend, who passed away.



AKIHIKO KAJI

(DRUMMER)

University student. His focus as a music major is the violin, but he's also good at playing guitar and bass. Ritsuka's aspirational model for getting ripped through manual labor.



RITSUKA UENOYAMA

(LEAD GUITAR)

Guitarist with skills far beyond those of the average high school student. Caring and compassionate. In a new relationship with Mafuyu. The consummate little brother to his big sister, Yayoi, who has him totally trained.

When Ritsuka Uenoyama hears Mafuyu Sato sing for the first time, he's blown away by the other boy's raw talent and immediately asks Mafuyu to join his band. Uenoyama's bandmates Akihiko Kaji and Haruki Nakayama agree, and the three of them set a goal of coming up with a new song to perform at an upcoming concert. It falls to Mafuyu to write the lyrics, a task the quiet student finds impossible. Mafuyu lost his first love to suicide, a tragedy for which he blames himself, at least in part, and the trauma has left him reluctant to put his feelings into words.

However, during the concert, Mafuyu's pent-up emotions burst out of him and pour into the song. His spontaneous, powerful performance turns the show into an overwhelming success. Shocked into awareness, Uenoyama realizes he has feelings for Mafuyu and kisses him backstage. Before long, the two of them become a couple.

The band, now going by the name Given, enters a competition to take part in an upcoming music festival. Meanwhile, Haruki continues to nurse his secret crush on Akihiko, who's still entangled with his roommate and ex-boyfriend, professional violinist Ugetsu Murata. Driven into a corner by that dead-end relationship, Akihiko shows up at Haruki's place out of desperation. Haruki can't just stand by while Akihiko is suffering, but his heart breaks when even his offer to help is rejected.

Akihiko slowly regains his passion for music—and for life—through playing with Given. When Ugetsu comes to see the band's live performance in the music-festival competition, Akihiko finally ends things between them for good. He devotes himself to the violin again, which he had been neglecting for a long time, and commits to making Given a success.

As winter passes and spring comes around, Akihiko participates in a violin competition and finally confesses his true feelings to Haruki. The two become boyfriends.

In the festival competition, Given loses to the band fronted by Hiragi Kashima, Mafuyu's childhood friend, who's got problems of his own...



HIRAGI KASHIMA

(BASS & VOCALS)

Childhood friend of Mafuyu and
Yuki. Ritsuka's natural enemy.



SHIZUSUMI YAGI

Childhood friend of
Hiragi, Mafuyu, and Yuki.
Hiragi's protector.

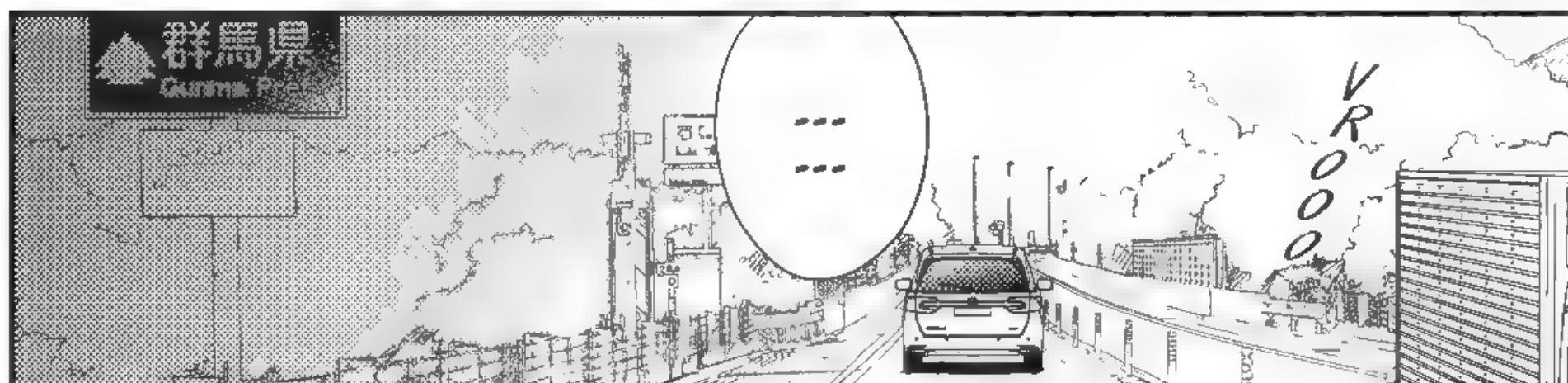


given

Extra Track 1









SHE'S
UENOYAMA'S
OLDER
SISTER...

...SHE
MET
YATAKE
AT THE
CAC
JUDGING.

THEN...

...AND
ALSO
AKIHIKO'S
FRIEND.





stare

ON
TOP
OF
THAT...



AND NOW
WE'RE
DOING A
SHOOT
TOGETHER
OUT IN THE
STICKS.

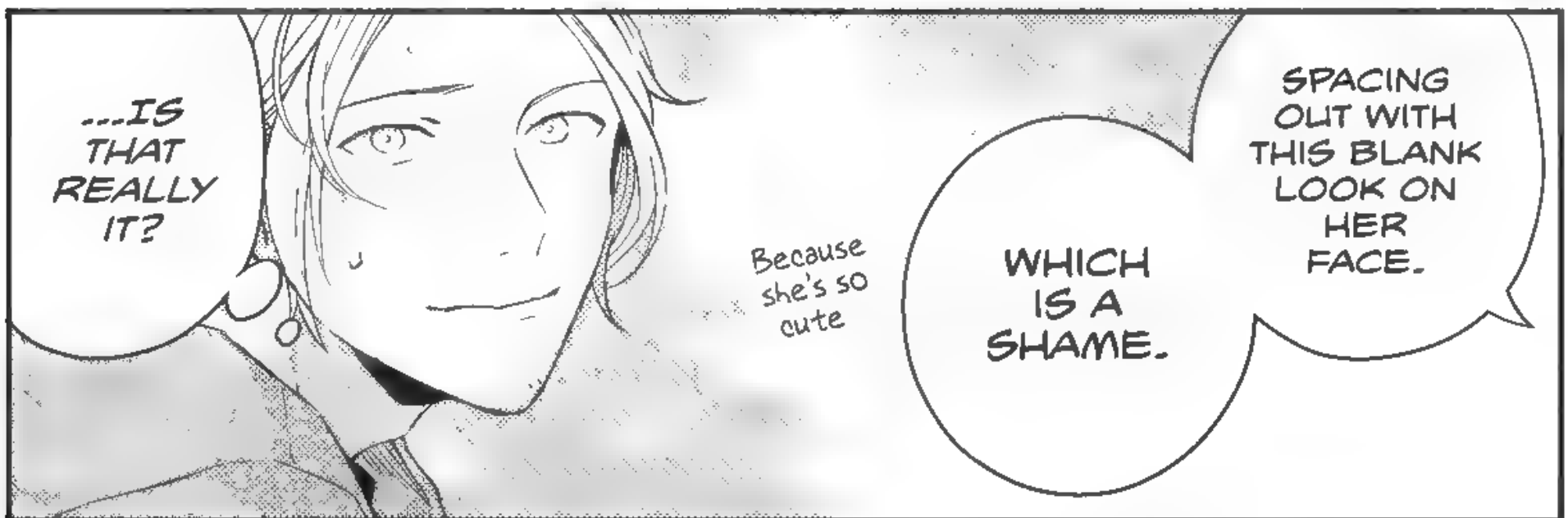
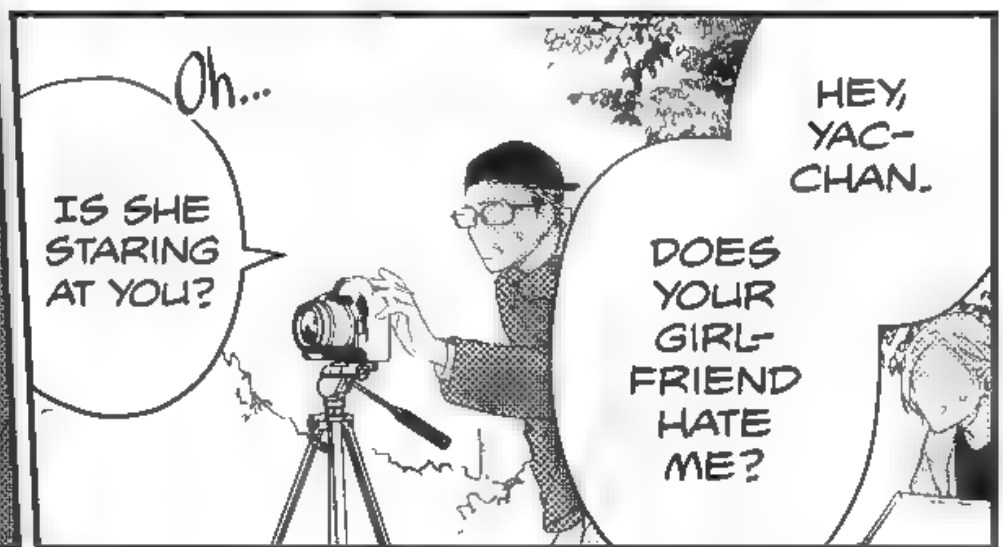


All right,
let's take
it from the
B melody.

...MADE
THE CLUT
FOR THE
CAC.

...THE
ARTISTS
WE'RE
FILMING
TODAY...







SO,
YAYOI!!

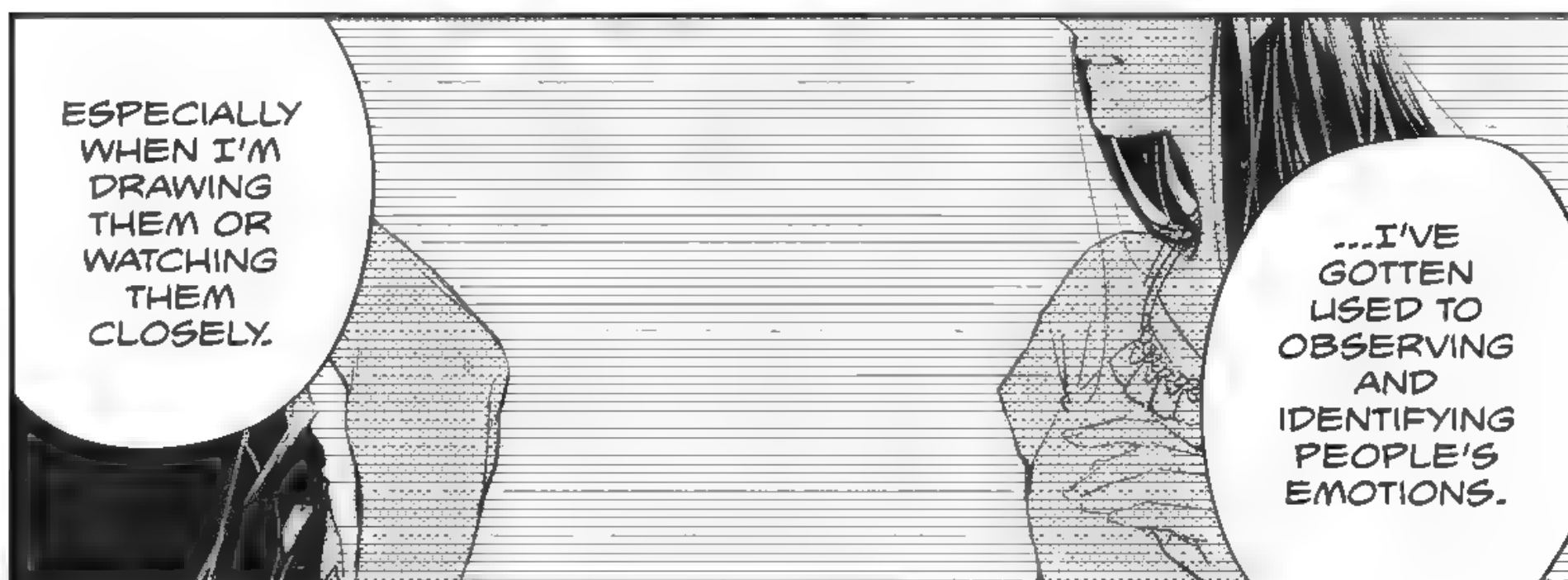
WHERE
DO YOU
KNOW
AKIHIKO
FROM?

AH...

UM...

UHH...

TH-THIS
SILENCE
IS DEAF-
ENING...

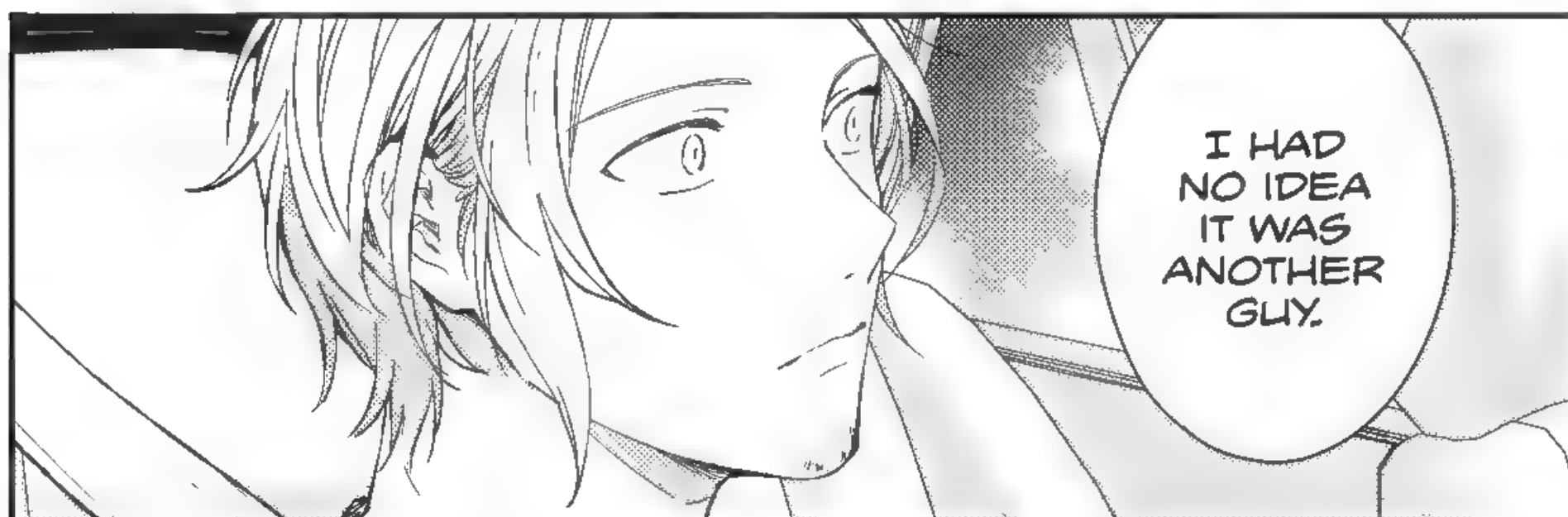




...THAT
HE WAS
CRUSHING
HARD ON
SOMEONE.



FROM
THE VERY
BEGINNING,
IT WAS
OBVIOUS
...



I HAD
NO IDEA
IT WAS
ANOTHER
GUY.



STILL,
THE DAY
I SAW
AKIHIKO
WITH
THAT...

...SAD
LOOK
ON HIS
FACE...

...I
FELT
SO
SORRY
FOR
HIM.

I
COULDN'T
TELL
AT ALL
WITH
HIM.



HE HAD
THE
SAME
LOOK
IN HIS
EYES!

AND
FOR
RITSUKA
TOO!

OH,
REA—





...SHUT UP.



YOU'RE IN LOVE WITH THAT KID, AREN'T YOU?



IT'S WEIRD.

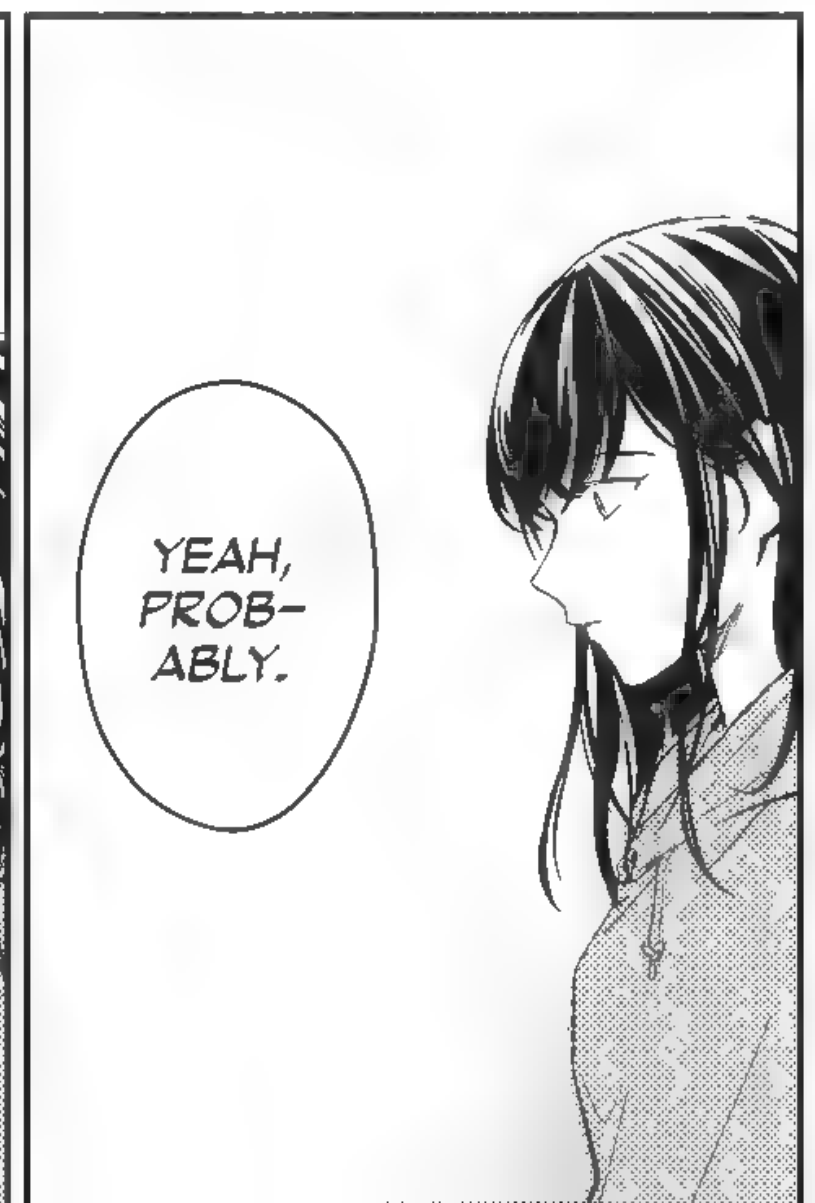
IT ISN'T RIGHT.

WHY DO YOU CARE?



AND YOU'LL PROBABLY ...

...GET HURT.



YEAH, PROBABLY.

BUT
THE
ONE...

...WHO
HURT MY
LITTLE
BROTHER
FIRST...

...WAS
ME.



...MY
BROTHER
AND...

...YOU
TOO.

I
DON'T...

...UNDER-
STAND
ANY
OF IT.

I COULDN'T
UNDERSTAND
WHAT AKIHIKO
WAS GOING
THROUGH,
WHAT HE WAS
FEELING.
AND NOT
JUST HIM,
BUT...





I
SWEAR,
I JUST
WANTED
TO
UNDER-
STAND.

BUT I
DIDN'T
WANT
TO
HURT
HIM!

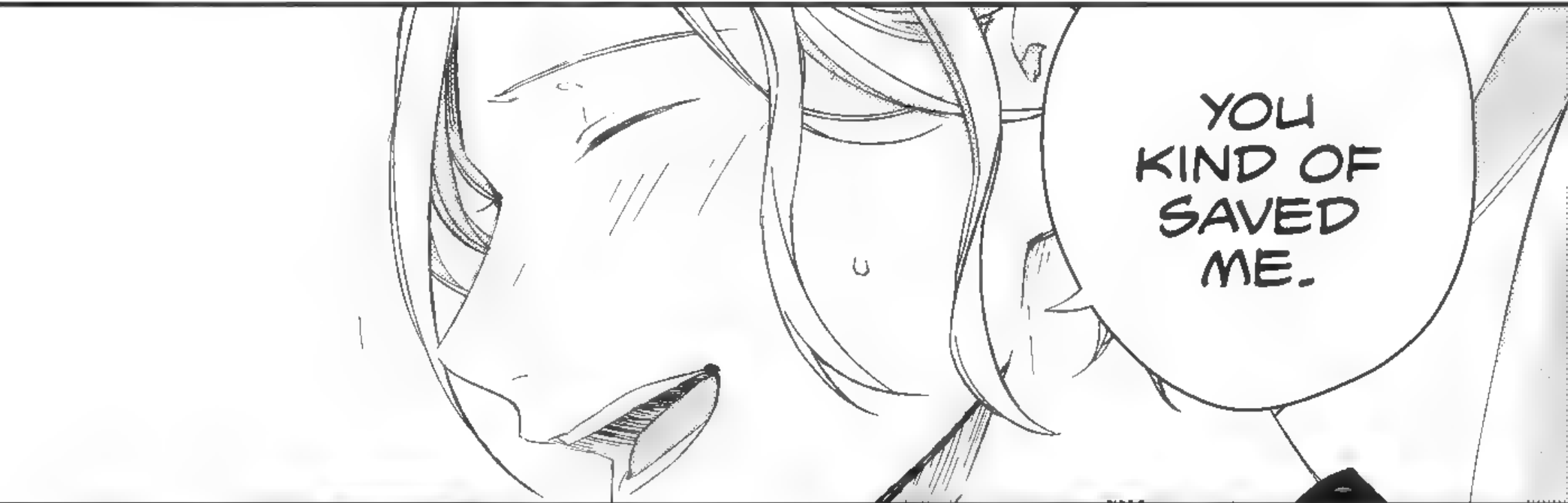


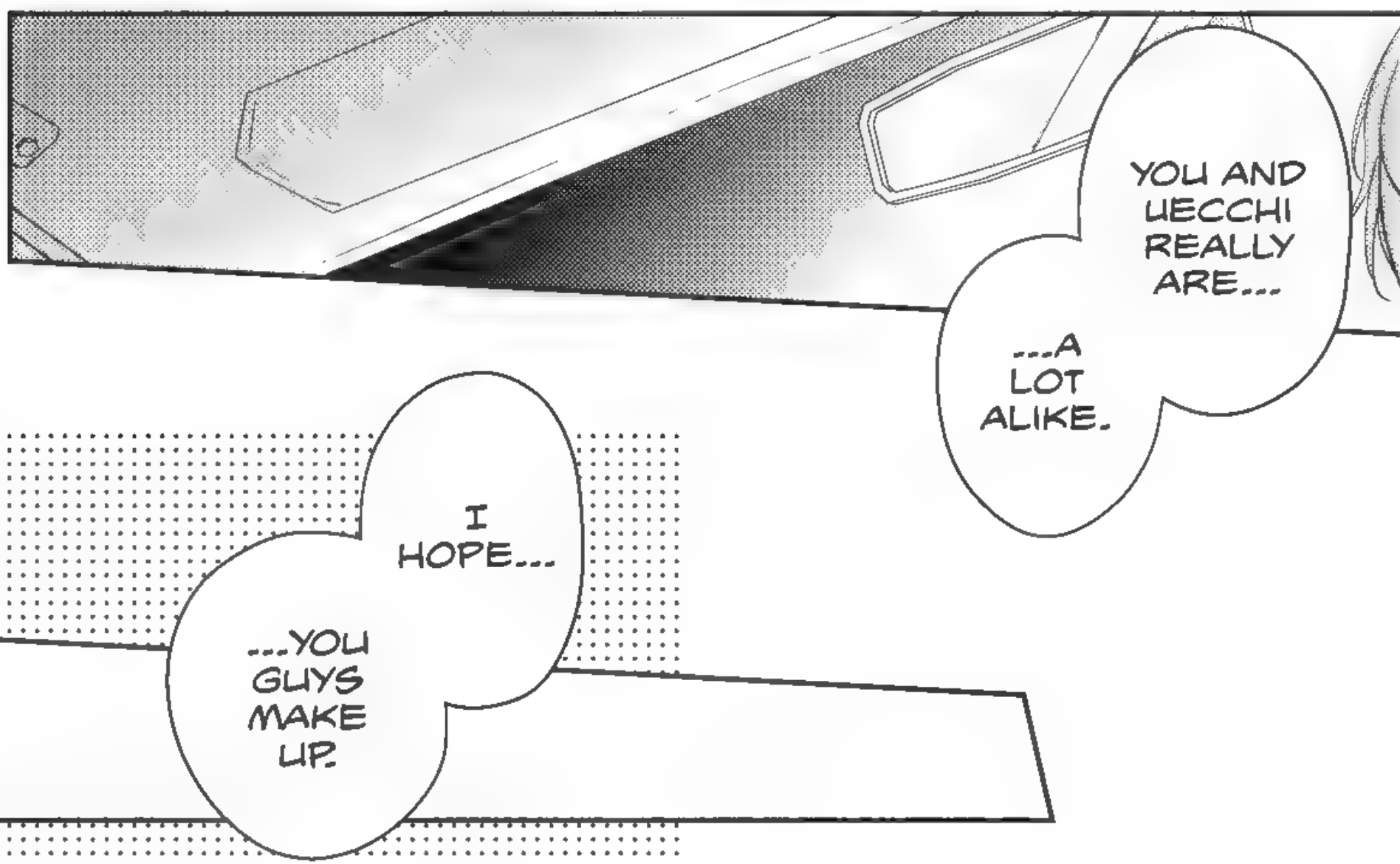
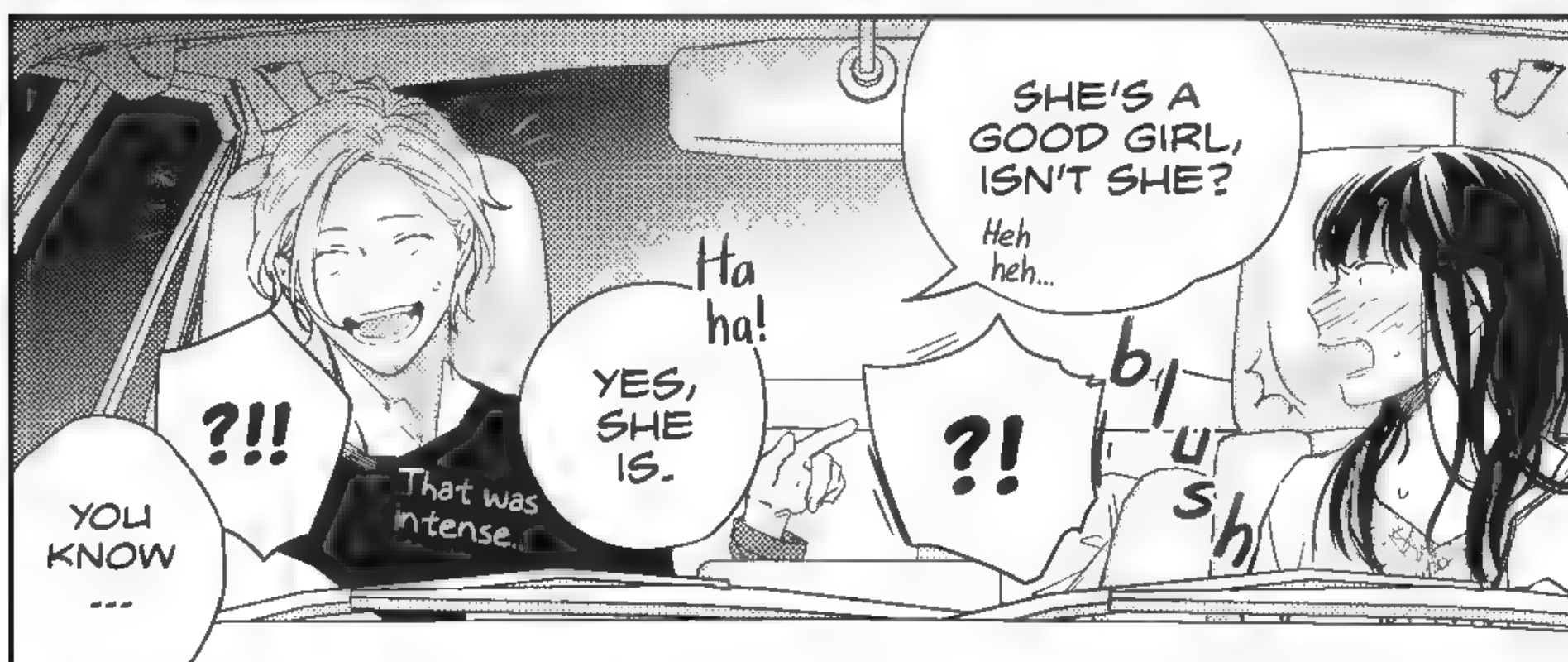
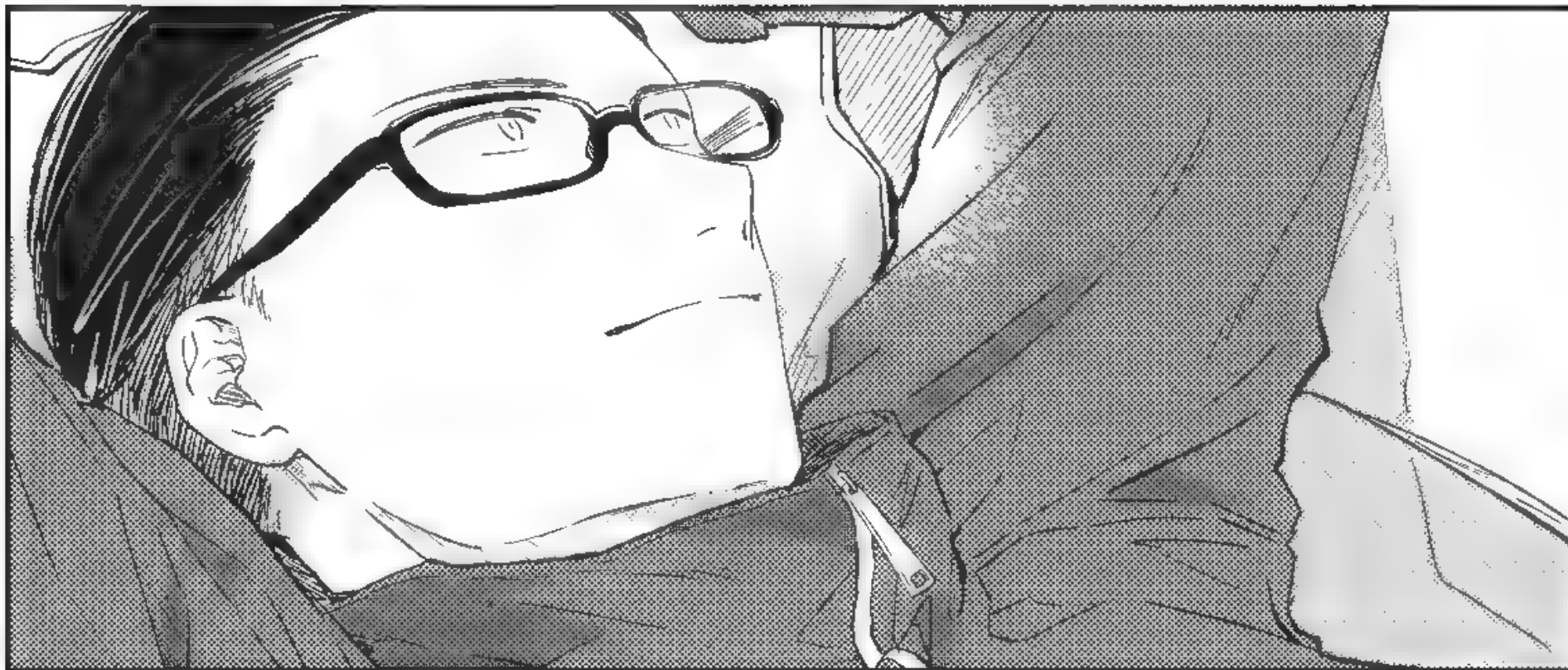
...I
REALIZED
THAT YOU
WERE THE
ONE WHO
AKIHIKO
WAS IN
LOVE
WITH.

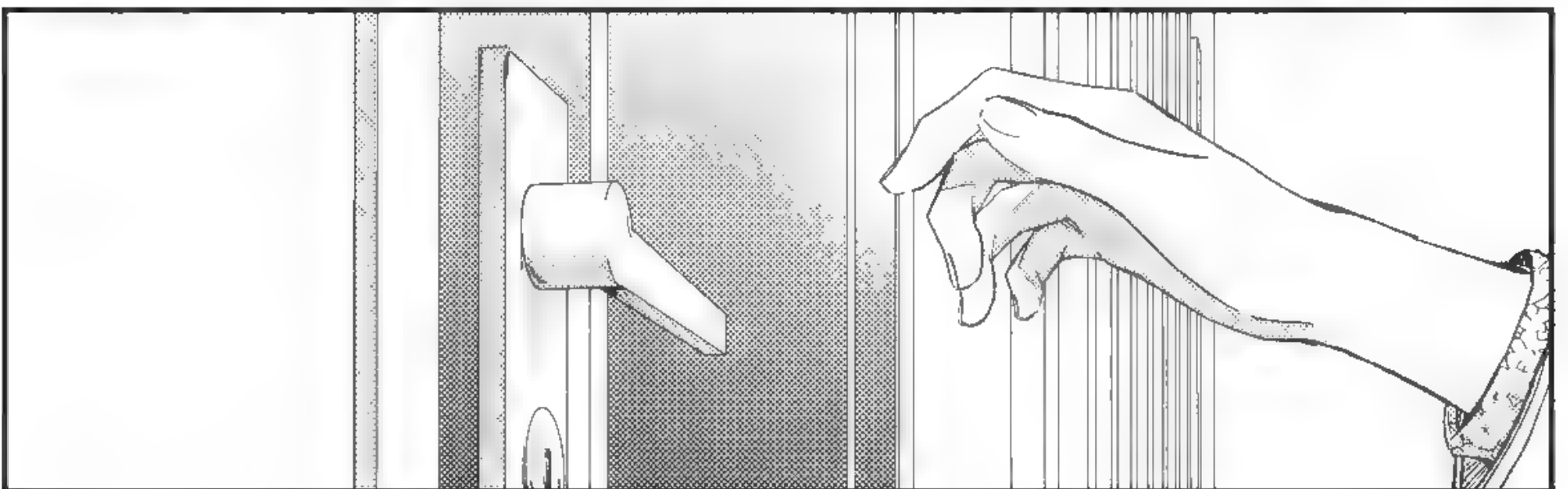
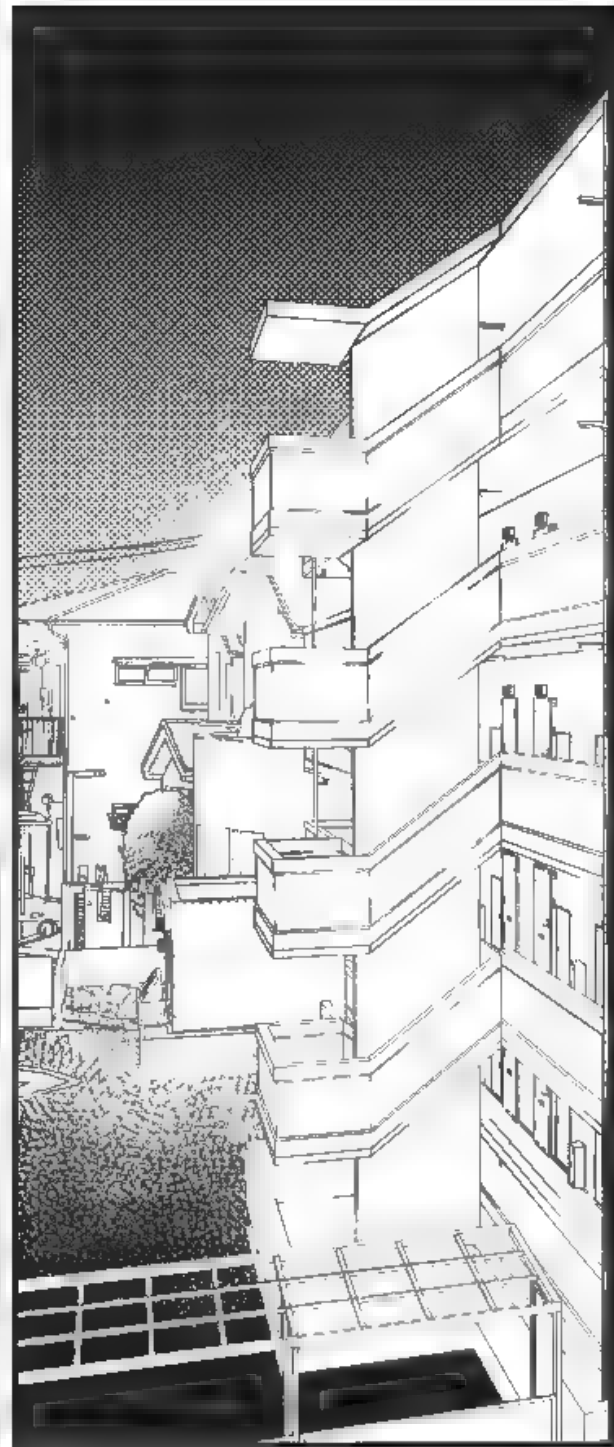
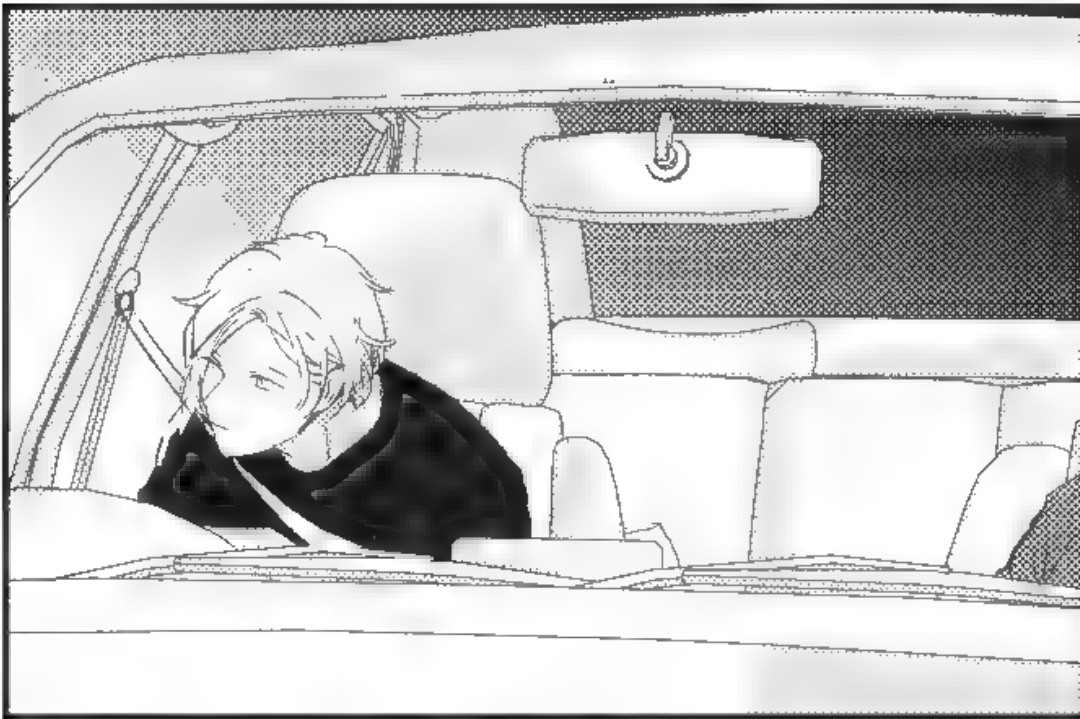
AT YOUR
FIRST
SHOW
LAST
SUMMER...

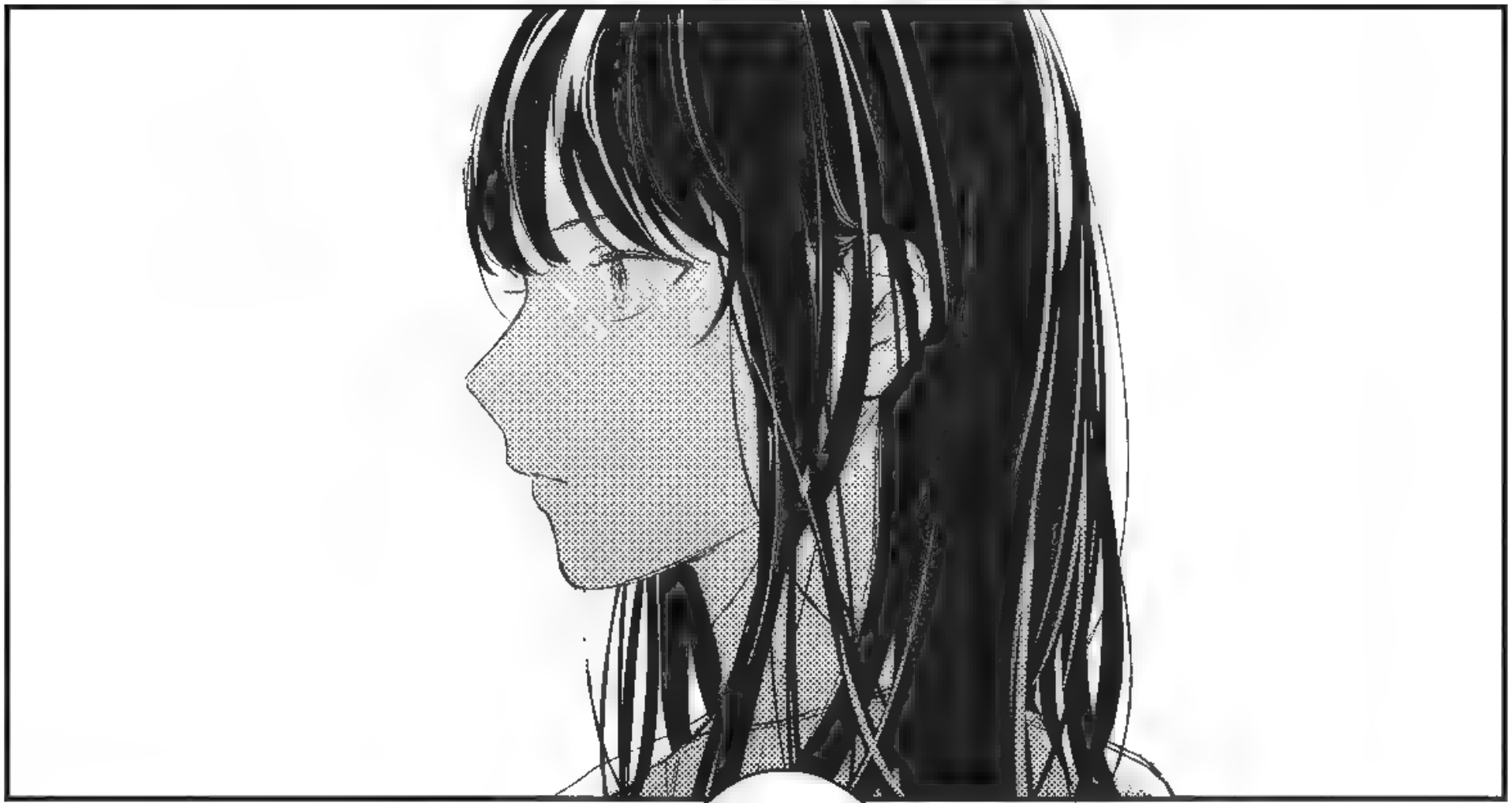
I'M
SORRY.





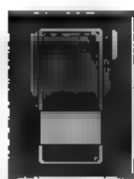
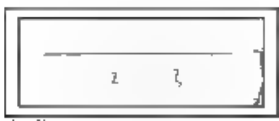
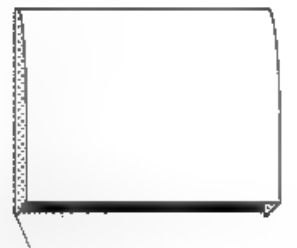




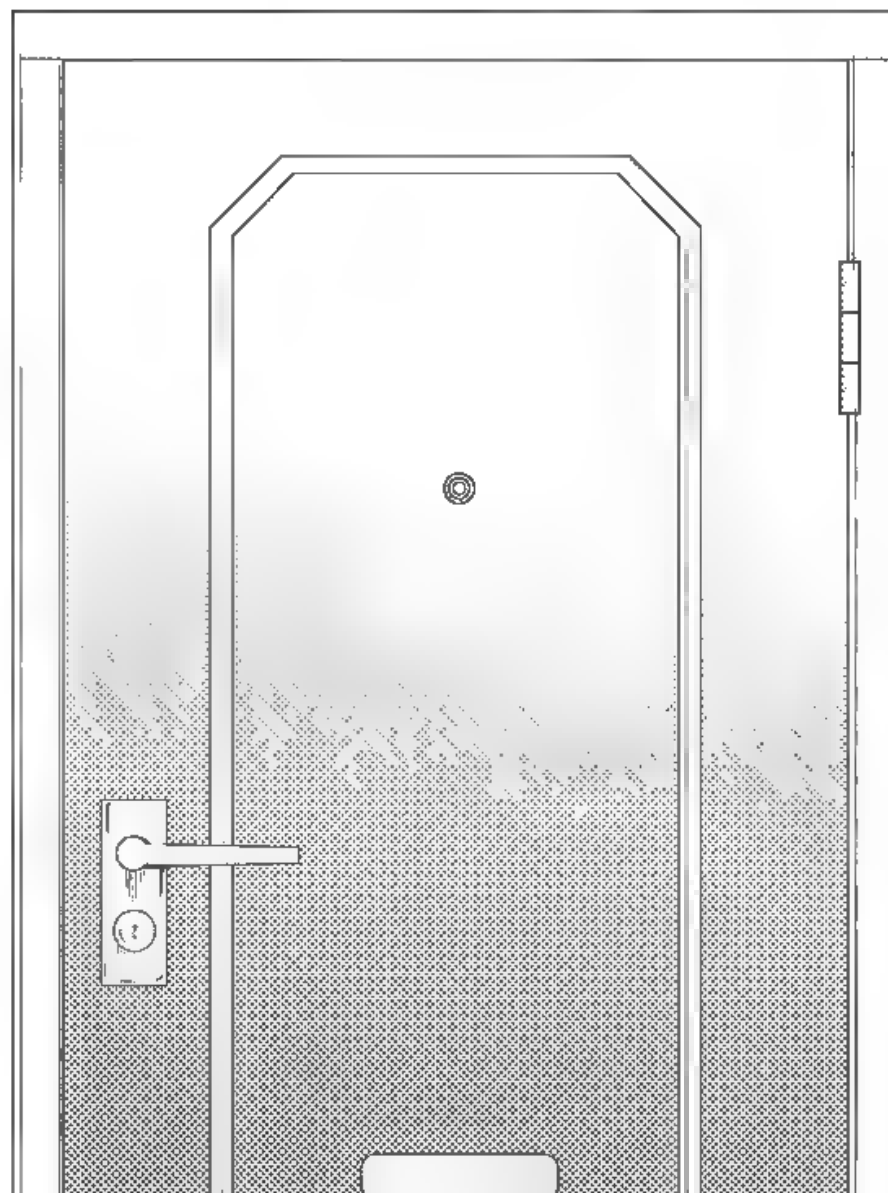


I'M
HOME.

Kchak



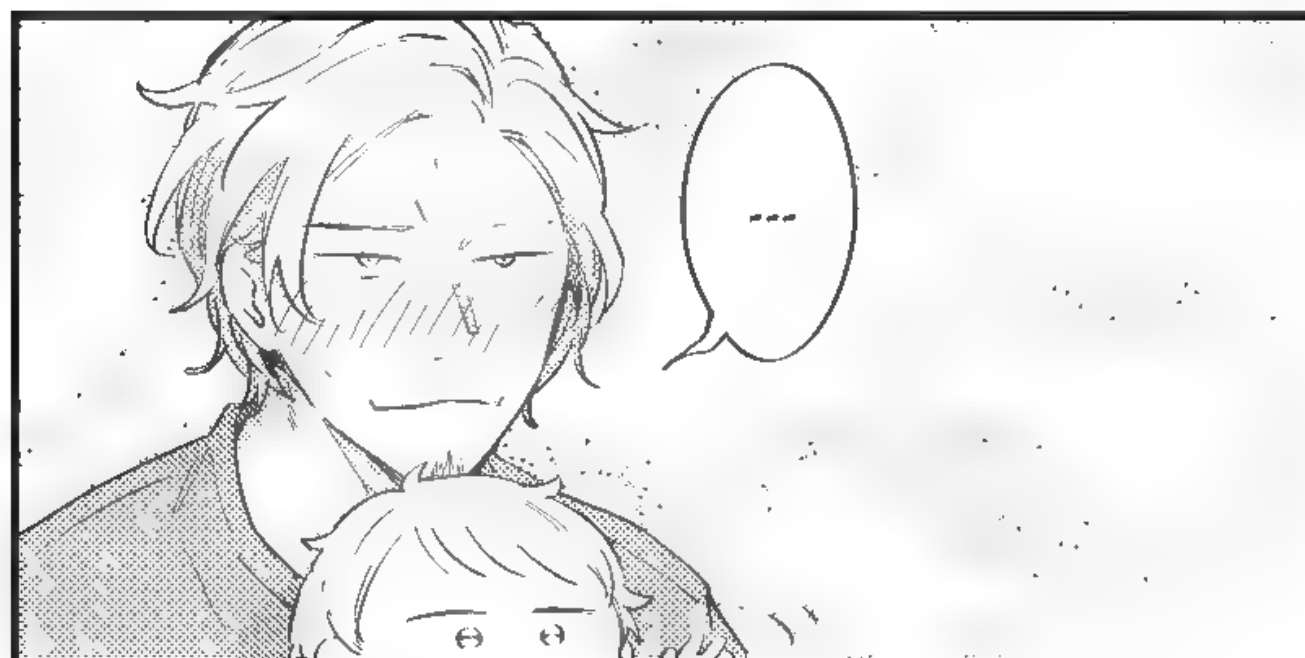
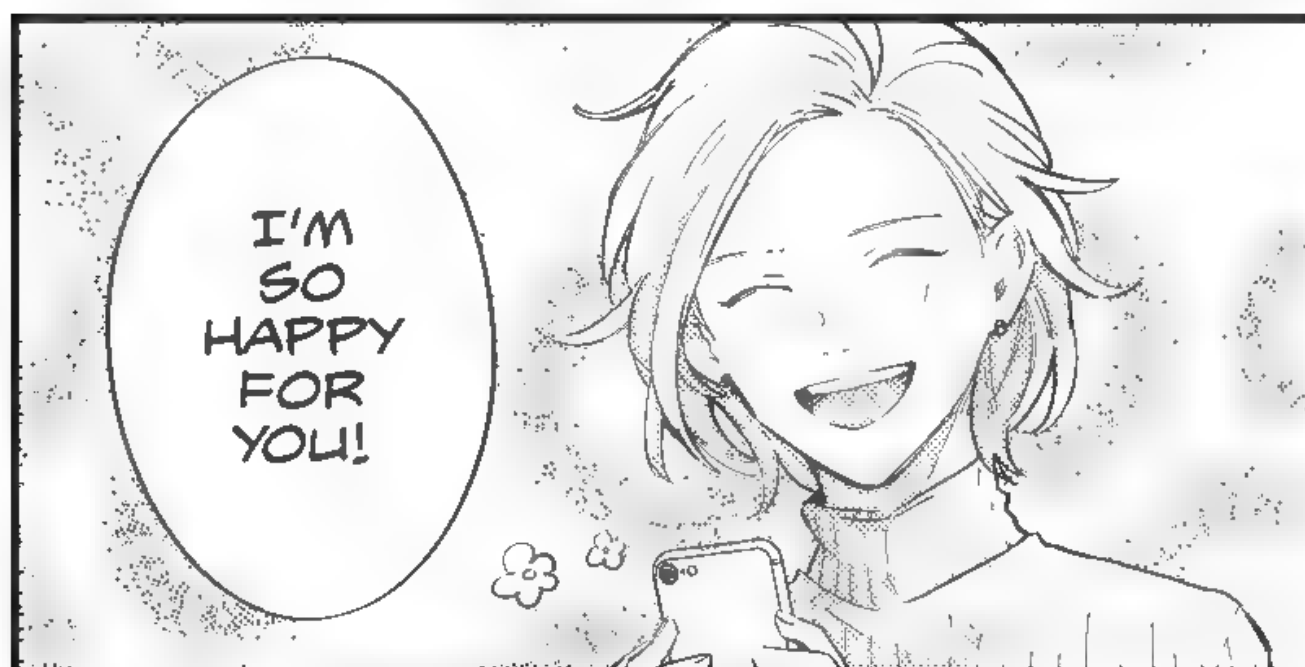
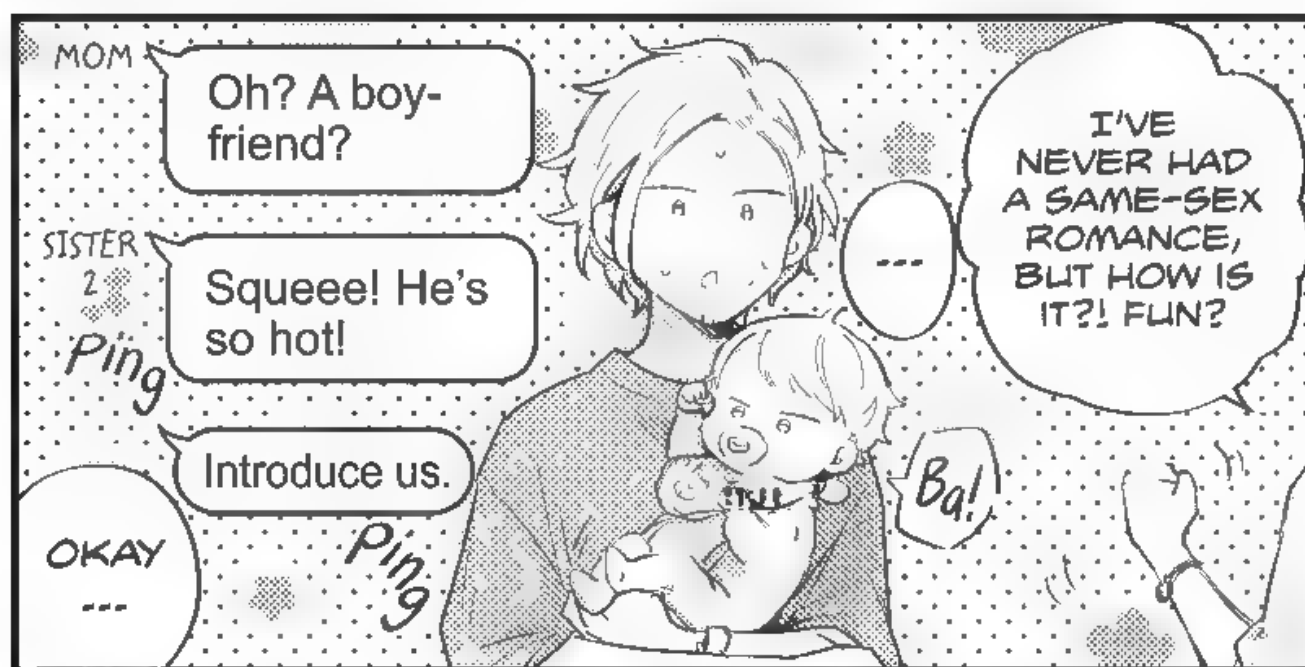
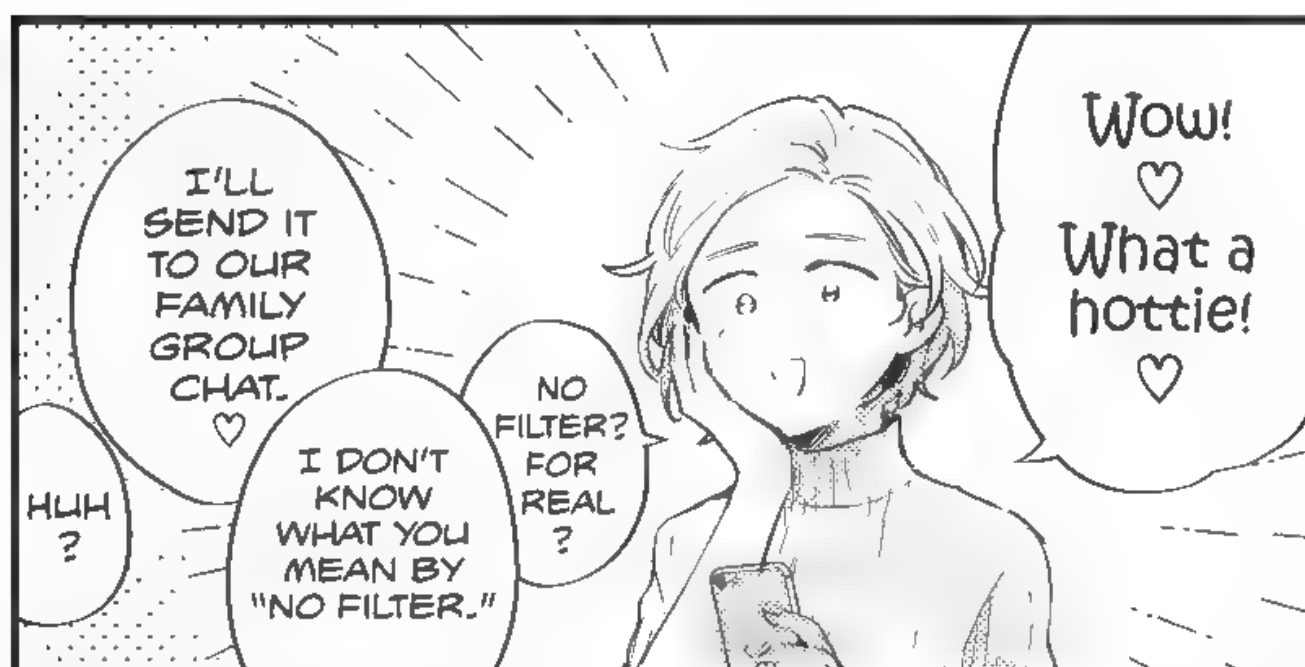
HEY...



Haruki's Big Sister (The Perky One) 1



Haruki's Big Sister (The Perky One) 2



given

by Natsuki Kizu



THIS IS A STORY...



...ABOUT ONCE- LONELY KIDS WHO ARE ON THEIR WAY TO BECOMING ADULTS.



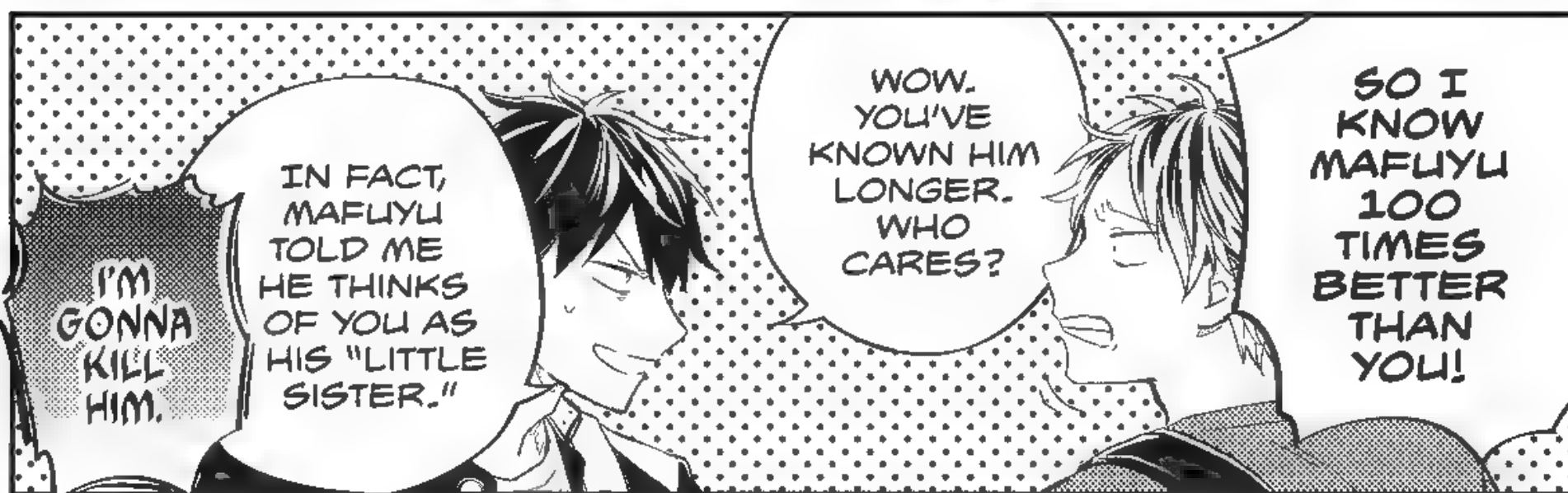
Hiragi Mix 1

given



given

by Natsuki Kizu





WHAT PISSES ME OFF IS A GUY LIKE YOU, WHO'S COMPLETELY INSENSITIVE WHEN IT COMES TO OTHER PEOPLE'S FEELINGS, PLAYING THE PART OF A BOYFRIEND RIGHT IN FRONT OF MY FACE!

SHUT UP ALREADY! YOU DON'T GOTTA GO OFF ON EVERY COMMENT!



AND MAFUYU DOESN'T FACTOR INTO ANY OF THIS!



YEAH, I GUESS
...
(MONOTONE)

TAKE A LITTLE MORE INTEREST HERE!



kree

LIENOYAMA, IT'S TIME TO GO.



Rawr
NO, YOU PUT YOURSELF IN MY SHOES FIRST!

GR

HOW ABOUT YOU MEET ME HALFWAY FIRST!

Chak



Nice & Calm

I WISH YOU TWO WOULDN'T FIGHT...

WE HAVE TO HEAD OVER TO GIVEN'S STUDIO.

WE'RE NOT.





WE'VE
GOT
NOTHING
IN
COMMON!

I DON'T
GET THAT
GUY AT
ALL!



ARE YOU
THAT
INCOM-
PATIBLE
MUSI-
CALLY?

NAH...
ACTUALLY,
WHEN
WE'RE IN
A GROOVE,
IT'S LIKE
WE'RE IN
PERFECT
SYNC, BUT...

I HATE
PEOPLE
WHO THINK
THAT...

...THE
WORLD
REVOLVES
AROUND
THEM!

LIKE
REPELS
LIKE...



IN
PERFECT
SYNC!

OKAY,
SO...

grmb/
grmb/



...WHY
DID YOU
AGREE
TO PLAY
RHYTHM
GUITAR IN
HIRAGI'S
BAND?



WHY?
WELL...

...



...HELLA
COOLER
THAN I
IMAGINED.

...IT'S
BECAUSE
THEY
WERE...

IT'S NOT
JUST
THAT THEIR
MUSIC WAS
COOL.

THEY
WERE
JUST
GOOD.

THE
SOUNDS
DUG
INTO MY
BRAIN.

IT WAS THE
RARE FEELING
OF HAVING MY
EXPECTATIONS
BETRAYED IN A
POSITIVE WAY.

I
ALWAYS
HATED
GUYS
WHO'D
GO WITH
WHATEVER
WAS
POPULAR.

OR I
THOUGHT
I DID.

BUT SOON
AFTER THAT,
THEIR
RHYTHM
GUITARIST
LEFT THE
GROUP.



Thanks
for
every-
thing

Sorry
I wanna
go to univer-
sity

THEY
WERE
TRYING
TO FILL
THE
SPOT...



...HIRAGI'S
BAND WON
AT CAC,
SEALING
THE DEAL
ON THEIR
PROFESSIONAL
DEBUT.

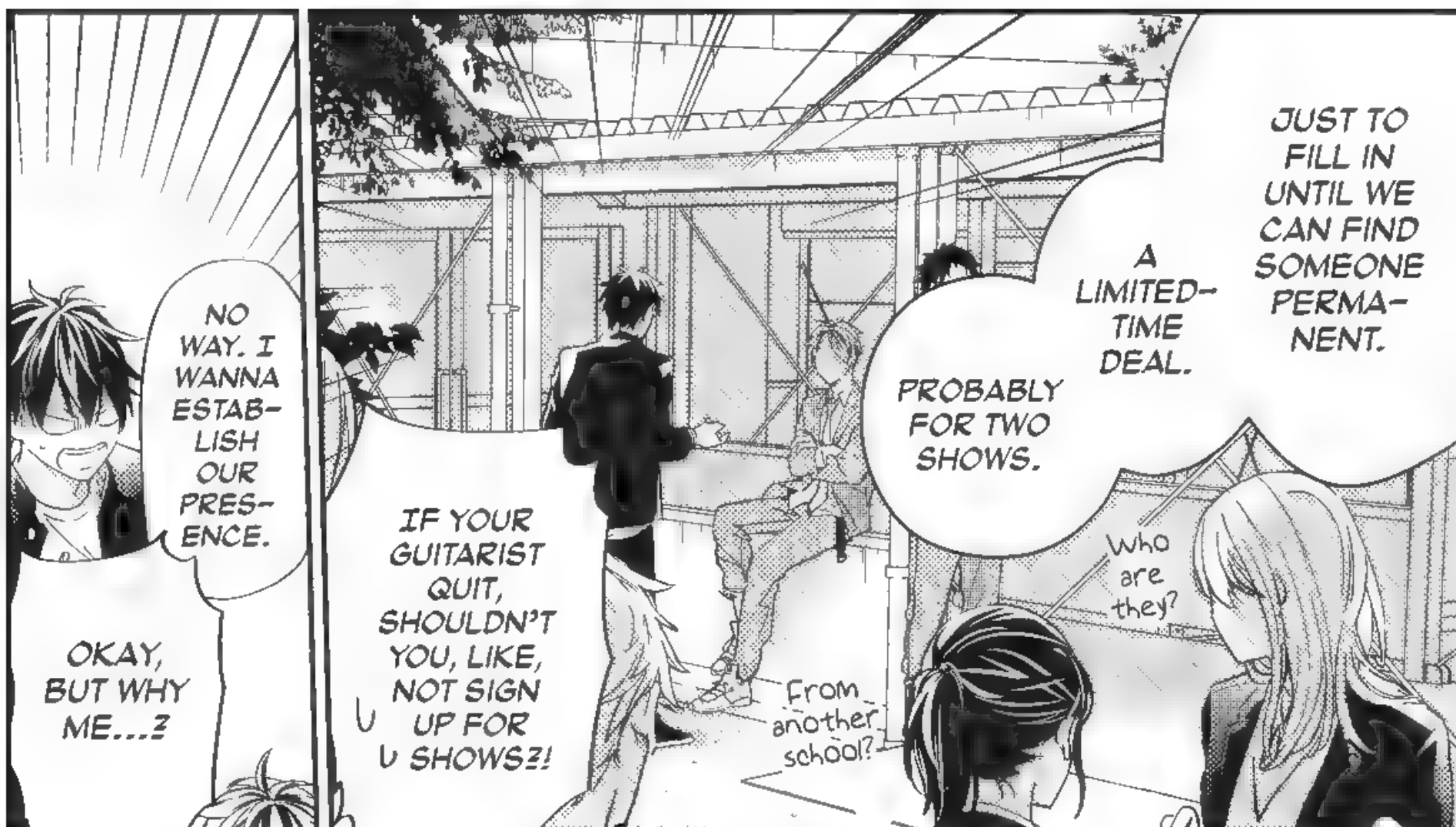
IN THE
FALL
OF OUR
SECOND
YEAR
IN HIGH
SCHOOL...



ME?!!

...AND
FINALLY
CALLED
ON...







...THERE'S
SOMETHING
I WANT TO
TRY WITH
YOU.



...!



IN
THE
END...

...THE REAL
REASON
WHY I
AGREED
TO PLAY
GUITAR FOR
THEM...



...IS
'CAUSE IT
SEEMED
LIKE IT
COULD
BE A
HELLVA
LOTTA
FUN.





AND
ALSO...

...REAL
STAR
POWER.

...HIRAGI
HAS...







SEEMS
WE'RE
ALL OFF
DOING
OUR OWN
THINGS.



OH.

HE'S
BUSY
WITH
SOME
VIOLIN
THING.

SO
WHY
ISN'T
KAJI
HERE
WITH
YOU?



I CAN'T
KEEP
UP WITH
HIRAGI'S
HUGE
CIRCLE OF
FRIENDS.

NAH.

Hey,
Matsu-
mura!

Glad
you
made
it!



Speaking
of.

SHOULDN'T
YOU BE
OVER
THERE WITH
THEM?

Can
you get
him in
the shot
too?!

Sure, of
course!

Ha
ha!

xx





given

by Natouki Kizu

One Evening at Practice



Band Intro



◀ Hiragi Kashima, Bass & Vocals

When Yuki was still alive, Hiragi didn't write lyrics or compose music. Now he writes all the lyrics and songs that his current band plays. He's productive, the type who will probably keep creating songs no matter what. He thinks a catchy tune can conquer the world.

A genius who understands the music market.

△ Precision Bass

He chose to play bass partially so he could play with Yuki, but also because the instrument is big and cute.

Shizusumi Yagi, Drums ▶

The kind of drummer who instinctively adapts to the bassist, he's able to devote himself to the sound Hiragi wants to produce.

Artisan type.

When he's not playing with the band, he only listens to instrumental music.



▲ Ritsuka Uenoyama (Rhythm Guitar)

Pitiful temporary guitarist.

The fact that he can skillfully adapt to any musical situation has become his downfall.



g i v e n

by Natsuki Kizu

Hiragi Mix 2

given

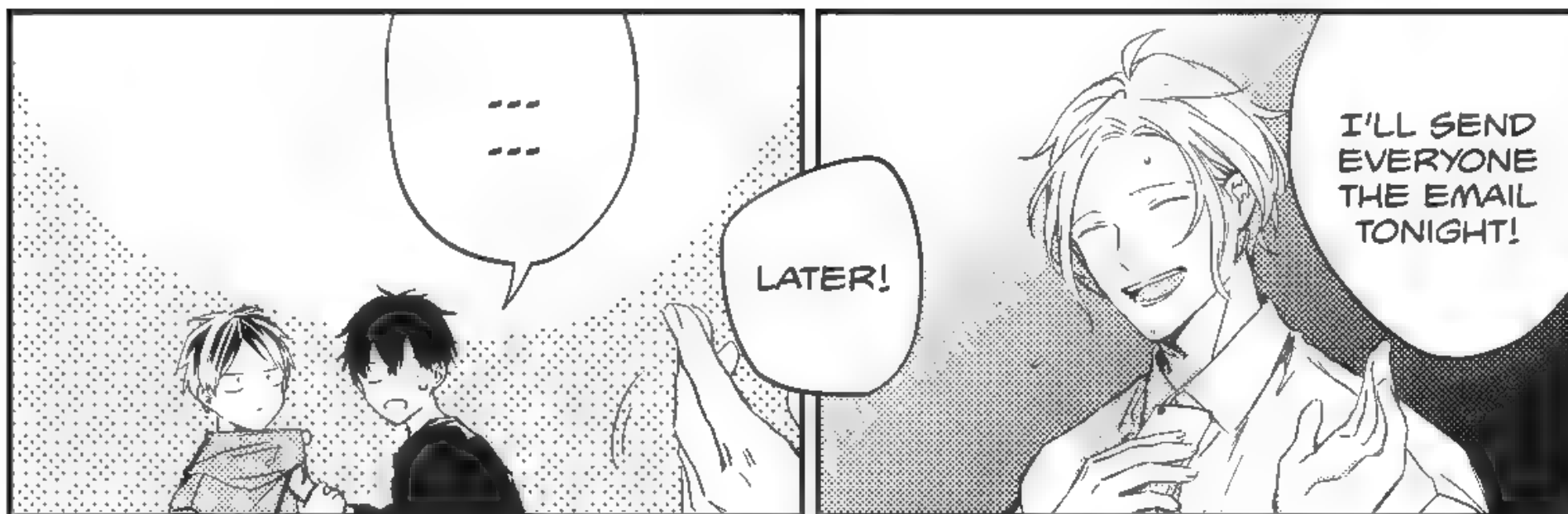


g i v e n

by Natsuki Kizu









HIRAGI?

DIDN'T
YOU...

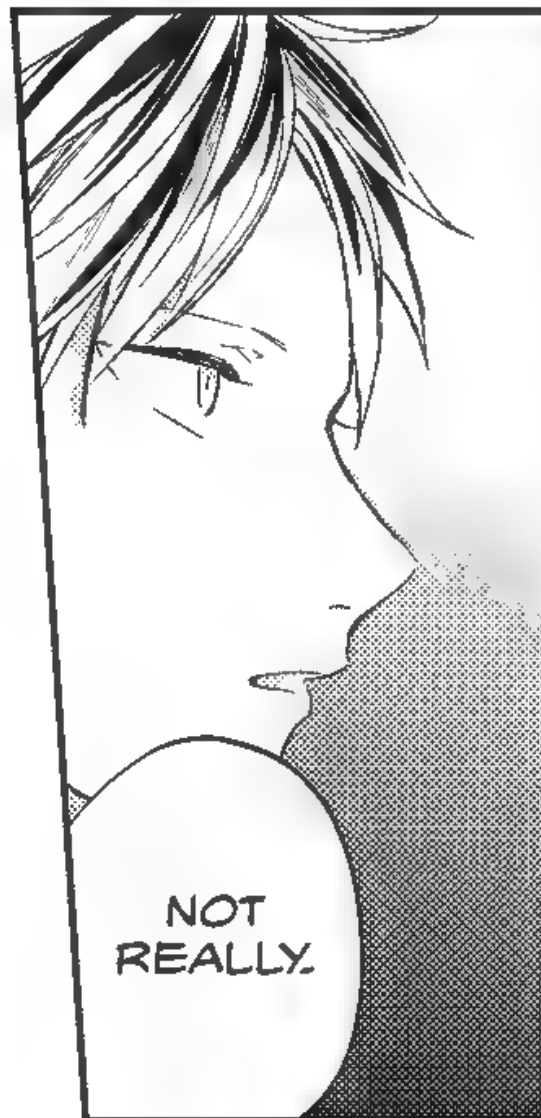


...DECID-
ING HOW
YOU'RE
GONNA
LIVE YOUR
LIFE?

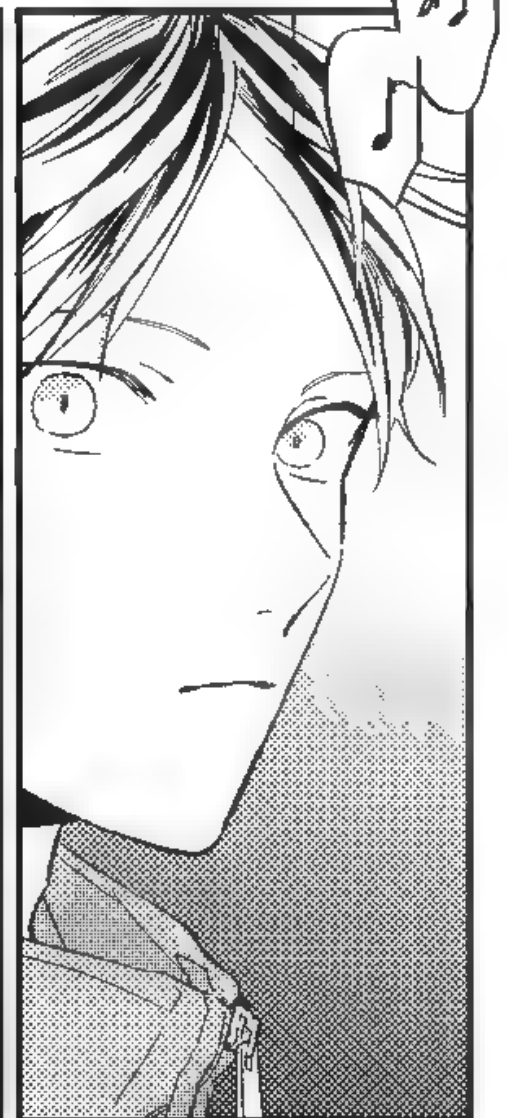
...FEEL
CONFLICTED
AT ALL
WHEN YOU
WERE...



LOOK,
WHAT'S
IMPORTANT
IS THAT A
POSSIBILITY
JUST FELL
INTO YOUR LAP.
BE HAPPY
ABOUT IT.



NOT
REALLY.





WE
WEREN'T
PICKED
FOR CAC.

AND I WAS
JEALOUS
OF HIRAGI
FOR HAVING
HIS BAND'S
PROFESSIONAL
DEBUT SET.

BUT
NOW...



"HAPPY"
?

I
GUESS

---IT'S
SLOWLY
STARTING
TO SINK
IN.



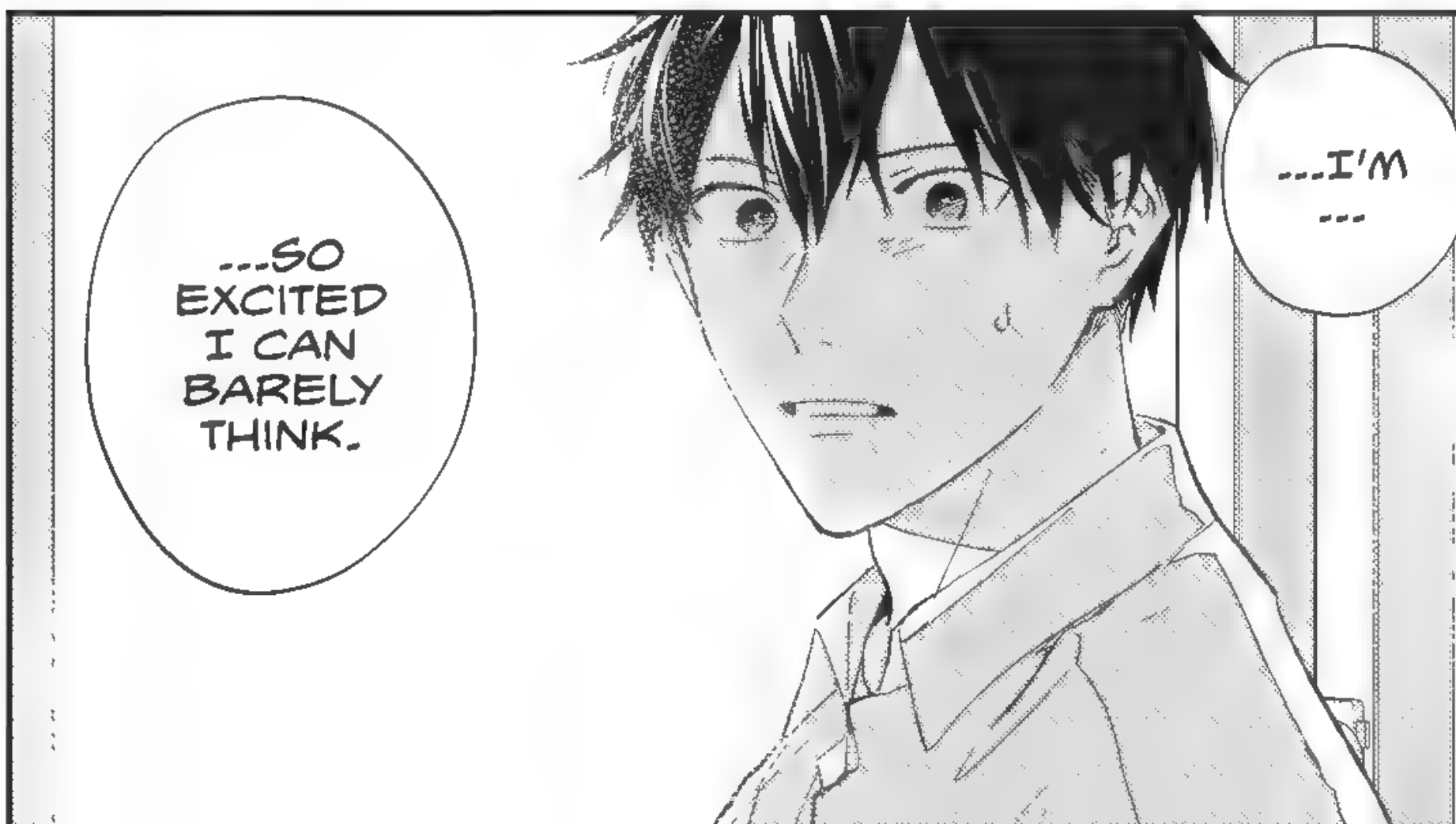
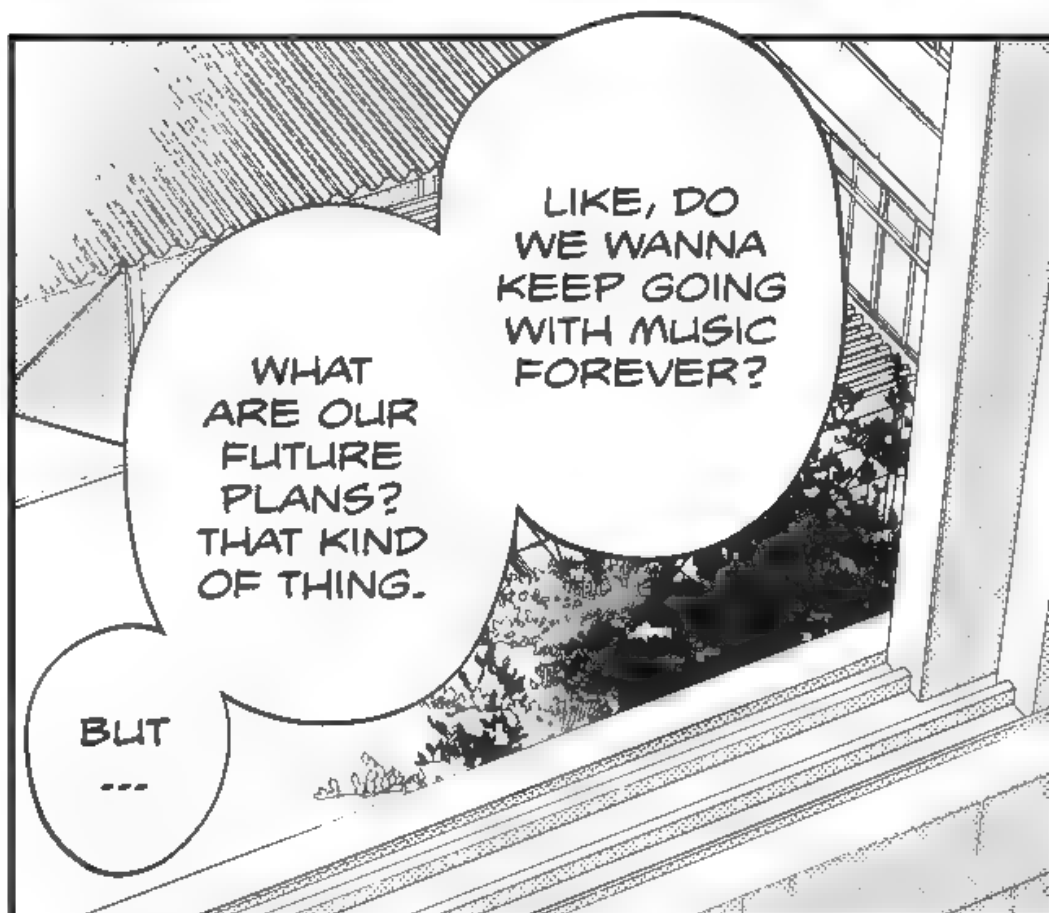
IS
THIS
FOR
REAL?

IT'S
FRIGGIN'
INCRED-
IBLE.

---MY
HEART'S
BEATING
LIKE A
JACK-
HAMMER.

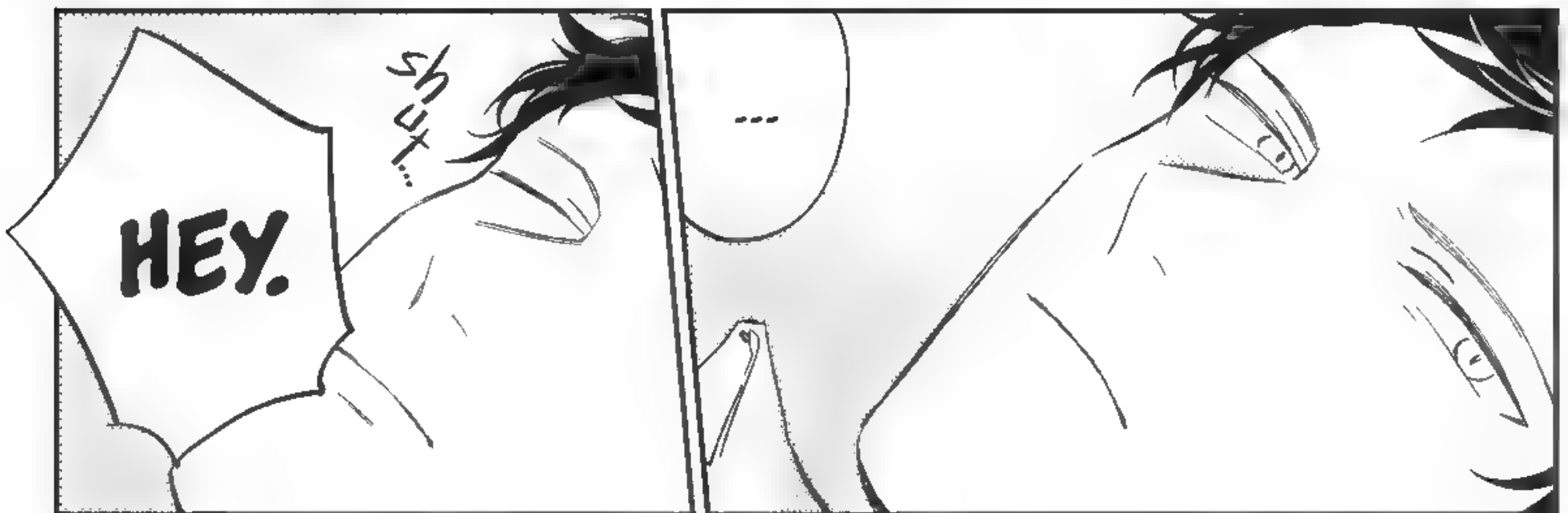








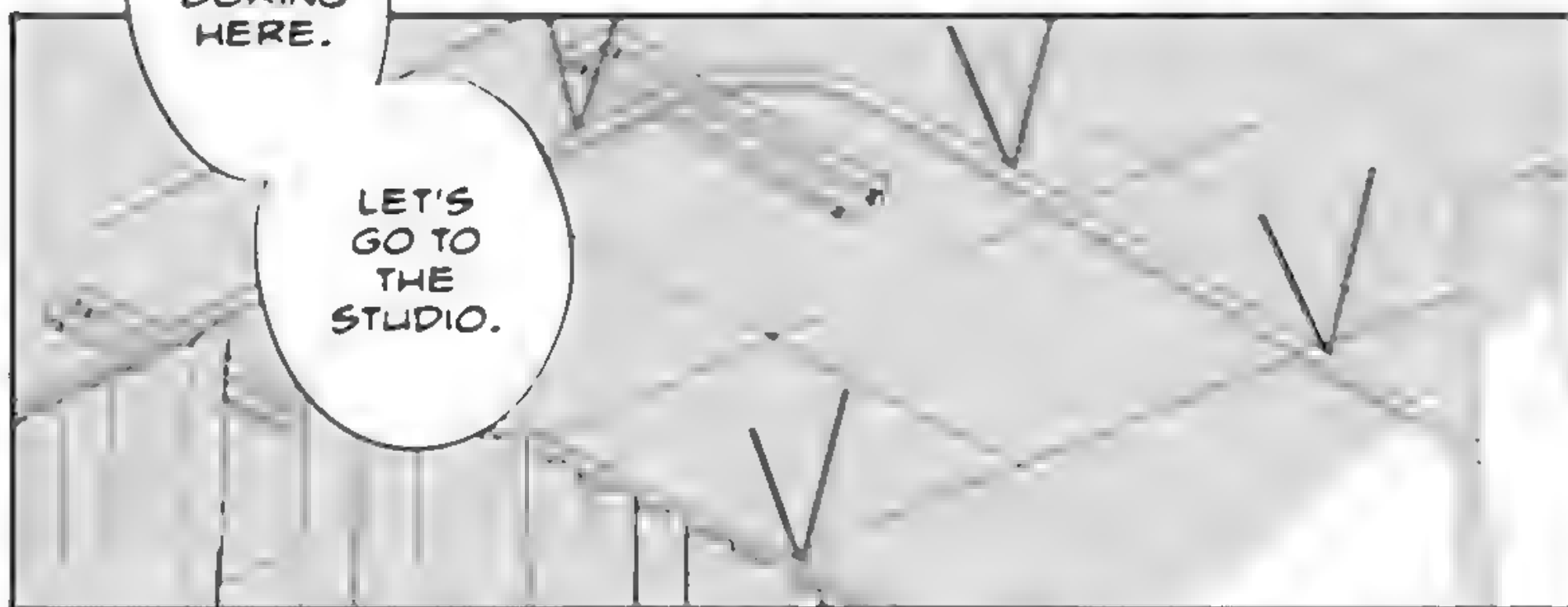






IT'S
BORING
HERE.

LET'S
GO TO
THE
STUDIO.





I
WANNA
MAKE
A NEW
DEMO...

mutter

HIRAGI,
DIDN'T
YOU...



...FEEL
CONFLICTED
AT ALL?



...GOD,
THAT KID
IS A
DOPE.

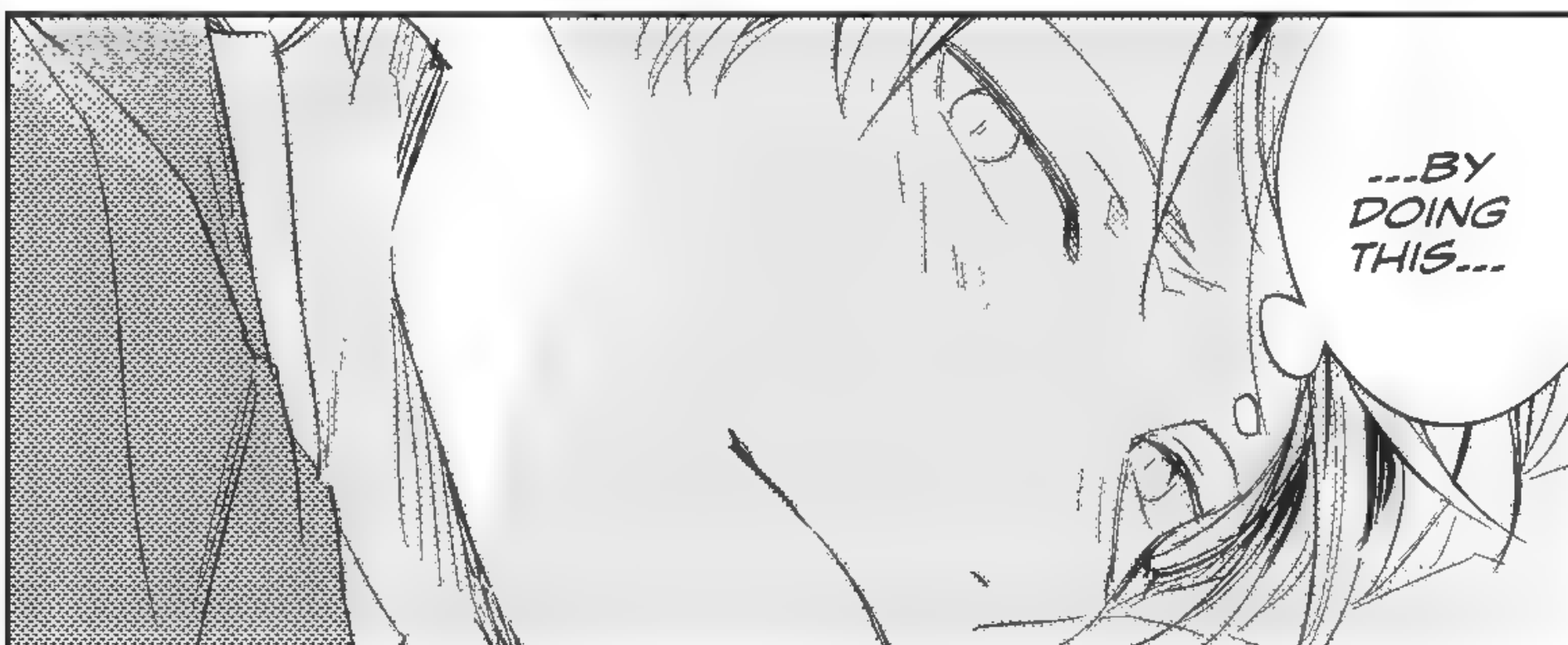
HOW
AM I
GONNA
LIVE MY
LIFE?

AFTER
YUKI DIED,
I GOT
THE BAND
BACK
TOGETHER.

THAT'S
WHEN I
DECIDED
ON IT.



BESIDES...



**...BY
DOING
THIS...**



**...TIED
TO ME
FOR A
WHILE.**

**...I
CAN
KEEP
SHIZU-
SUMI...**



syh_hiragi

...



Our pro debut!
Band t-shirts now on sale!



Hiragi Mix 3

given



AND YET,
IN THE
END, HE
ALWAYS
COMES
WITH ME.

G
a
h
h
h!

SHIZUSUMI...

...IS NEVER
INTERESTED
IN ME.

OR THAT'S
WHAT THE
EXPRESSION
ON HIS
FACE SAYS.



...BUT
EVERY
ONCE IN
A WHILE,
HE'LL
GIVE ME
THE WORDS
I WANT
TO HEAR.

IT
LOOKS
LIKE HE
DOESN'T
LISTEN
TO A
WORD
I SAY...



...HE
WENT
ALONG
WITH IT.

EVEN
WHEN
I SAID,
"LET'S
START A
BAND!"...





BOOM

**I'M
TOTALLY
IN LOVE
WITH
SHIZU-
SUMI.**

**OKAY,
THERE'S
NO
"MAYBE"
ABOUT
IT...**

STOP.

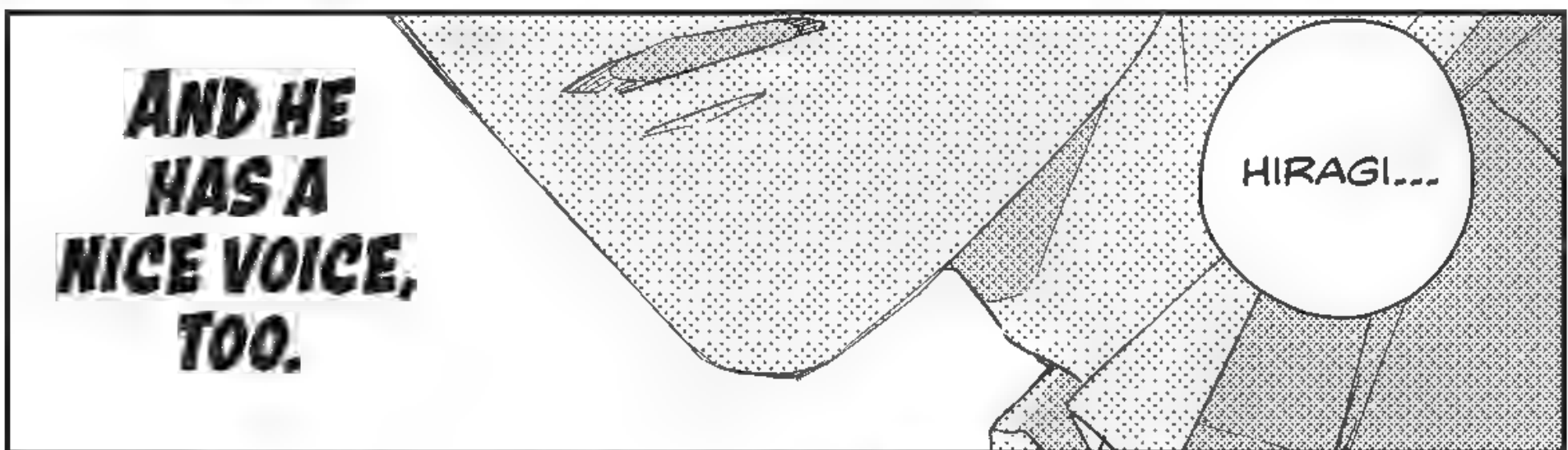
**IT'S
TOO
HOT.**

**IT'S
MAFLYU'S
FAULT FOR
TELLING ME TO
"STICK WITH
SHIZU" OR
WHATEVER!**

**I LOVE
HIM, I
LOVE
HIM, I
LOVE
HIM, I
LOVE
HIM, I
LOVE
HIM.**

**UENOYAMA
SAYS
HE'S AT
THE
STATION
NOW.**

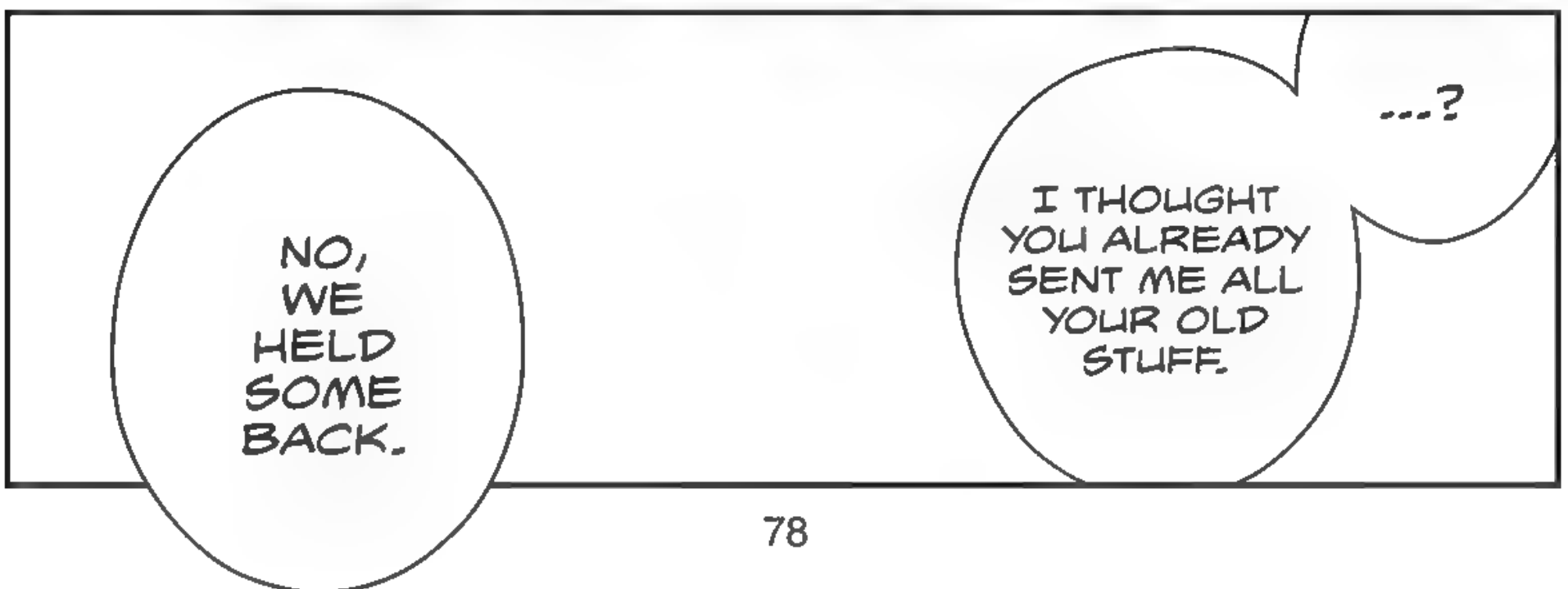
**UGH...
HE'S SO
DENSE,
BUT I'M
CRAZY
ABOUT
HIM.**













WE DIDN'T
GIVE YOU
ANY
OF THE
SONGS
FROM
WHEN
YUKI WAS
OUR
SINGER.



...MAFLYU'S
...OLD
FRIEND.
THE ONE
WHO DIED.

YUKI.

THAT'S...





ALL THE ONES YOU'VE PERFORMED WITH US SO FAR WERE WRITTEN BY ME.

YEAH?

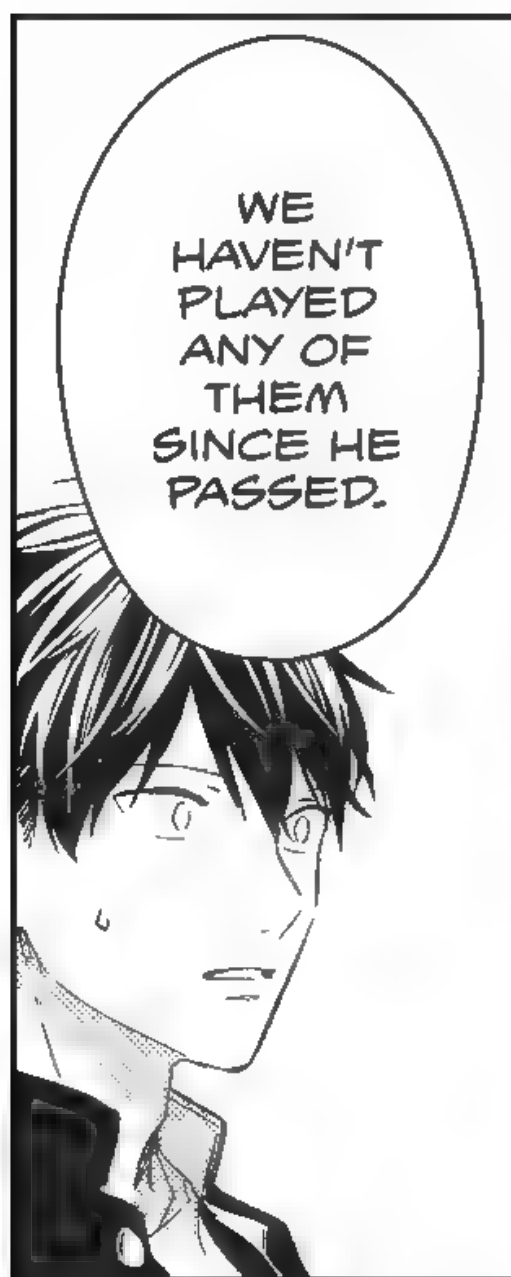
THEN WHAT ARE THE SONGS WE'VE BEEN DOING?



THIS IS ONE OF THOSE SONGS.

demo_1209.mp3
dropdrive is free service
that lets you bring your...

19:21



WE HAVEN'T PLAYED ANY OF THEM SINCE HE PASSED.



THE ONES HE SANG...

YUKI'S SONGS...



I WANT TO TRY PLAYING IT NOW, AT LEAST ONCE.

BUT THIS ONE...





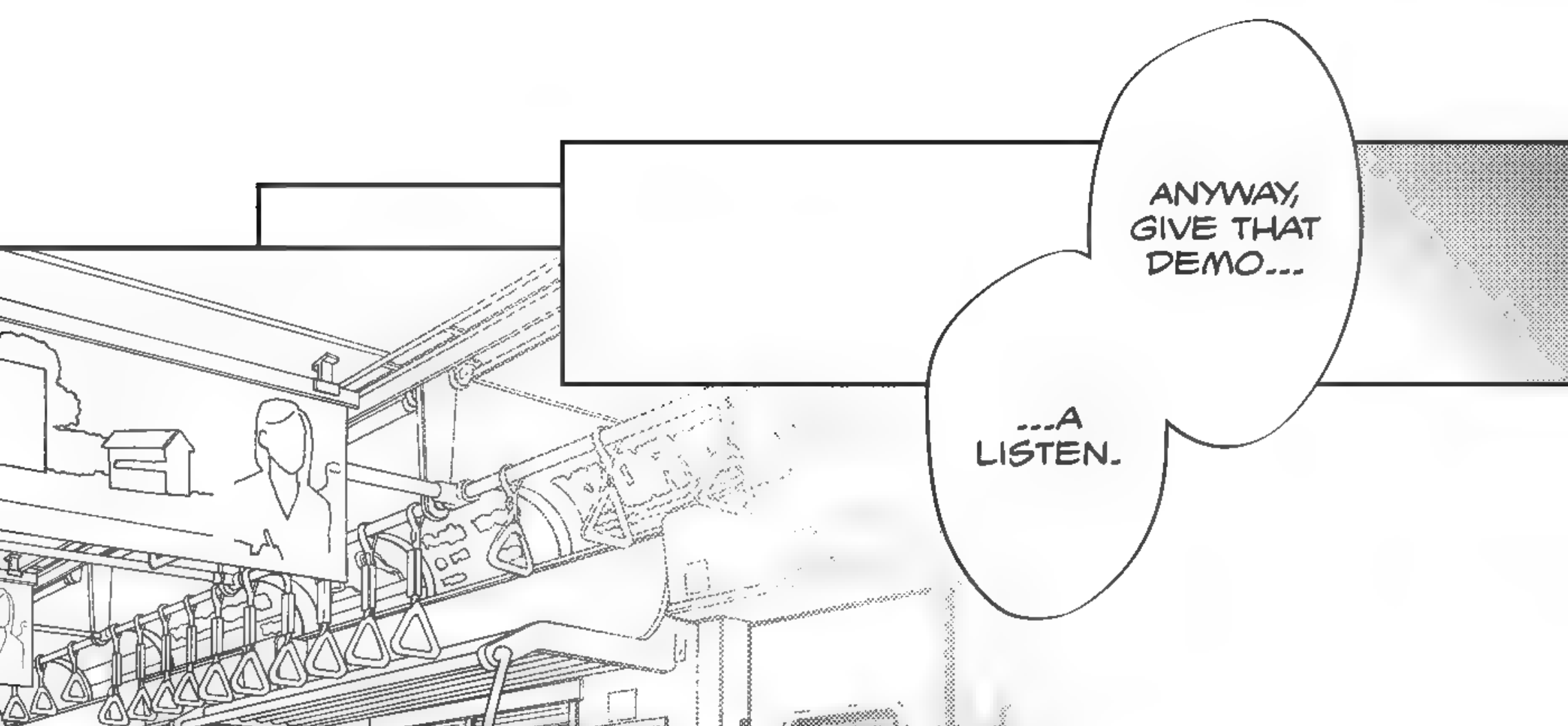
I THINK
OF MY
MUSIC AS
"JUNK
FOOD."



YUKI'S
MUSIC
WAS
DIFFER-
ENT.



YUKI
WAS AN
INTENSELY
CHARIS-
MATIC
PERSON.



ANYWAY,
GIVE THAT
DEMO...

...A
LISTEN.



WHAT-
EVER.

I'LL
LISTEN
TO IT,
BUT...



I WANT
TO PLAY
THAT SONG
WITH YOU.



TO BE
HONEST,
I DON'T
WANT TO
DO IT.

irk

PLAYING
THIS
SONG,
THOUGH?

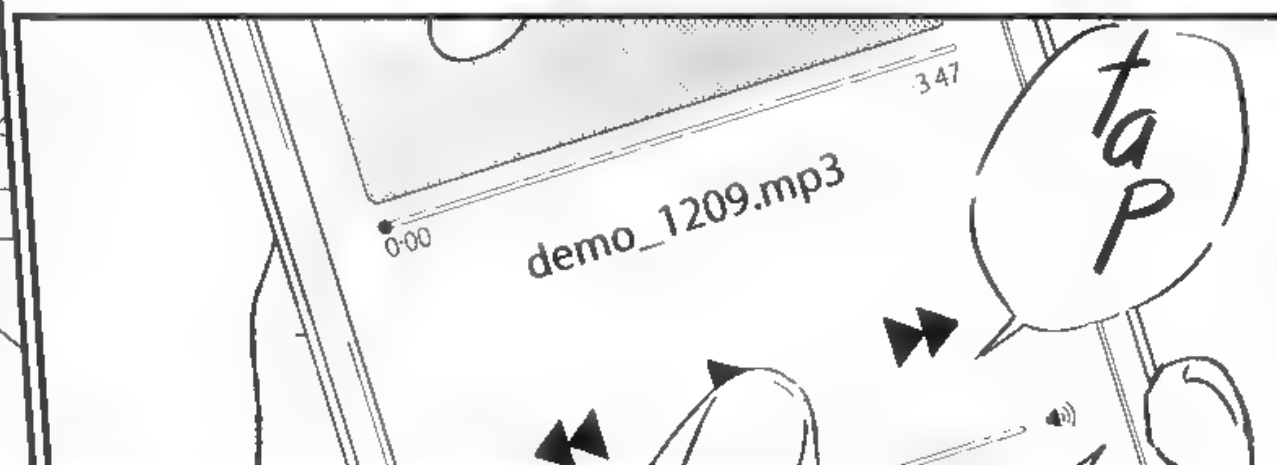
I DECIDED
TO TAKE
THIS GIG
AS RHYTHM
GUITARIST
BECAUSE
I RESPECT
HIRAGI'S
TALENT.



I
MEAN,
THE
DUDE
WAS
MAFLYU'S
EX-
BOY-
FRIEND...



FINE,
I'LL
LISTEN
TO IT!







thump

---HEDO-
NISTIC,
COOL-
HEADED

thump

---AND YET
THERE'S
A SENSE
OF
LONELI-
NESS.

SELF-
CONFI-
DENT...

YUKI
WAS AN
INTENSELY
CHARISMATIC
PERSON.



...YUKI
WAS LIKE,
"OKAY,
I'LL GIVE
THIS A
SHOT."

OR
SOME-
THING...



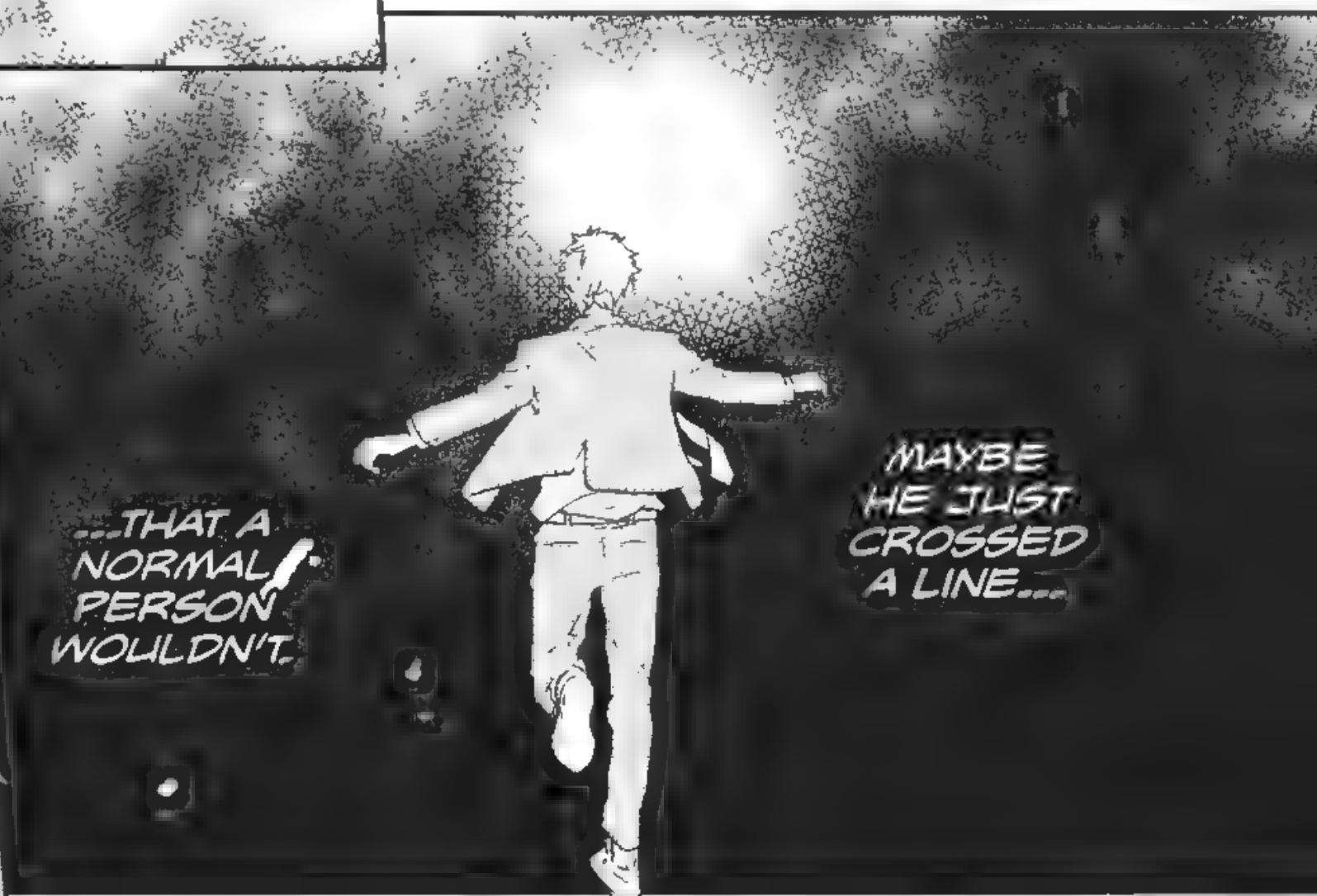
...EVEN
ON THAT
NIGHT...



MAYBE
...



I
STILL...

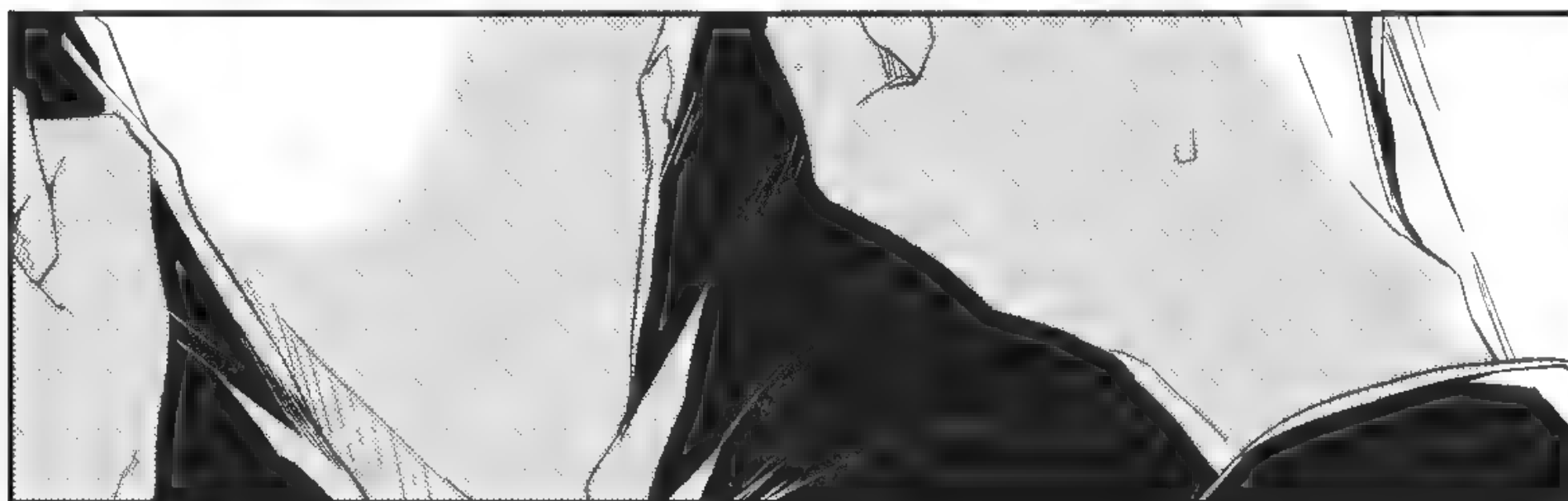


...THAT A
NORMAL
PERSON
WOULDN'T.

MAYBE
HE JUST
CROSSED
A LINE...



...CAN'T
FIGURE
HIM OUT
AT ALL.



THE SONG IS
TOTALLY
DIFFERENT
FROM WHAT
I EXPECTED.



...AND
MAFLYU'S
MUSIC...

HIRAGI'S
MUSIC...

...ARE
NOTHING
LIKE
THIS.

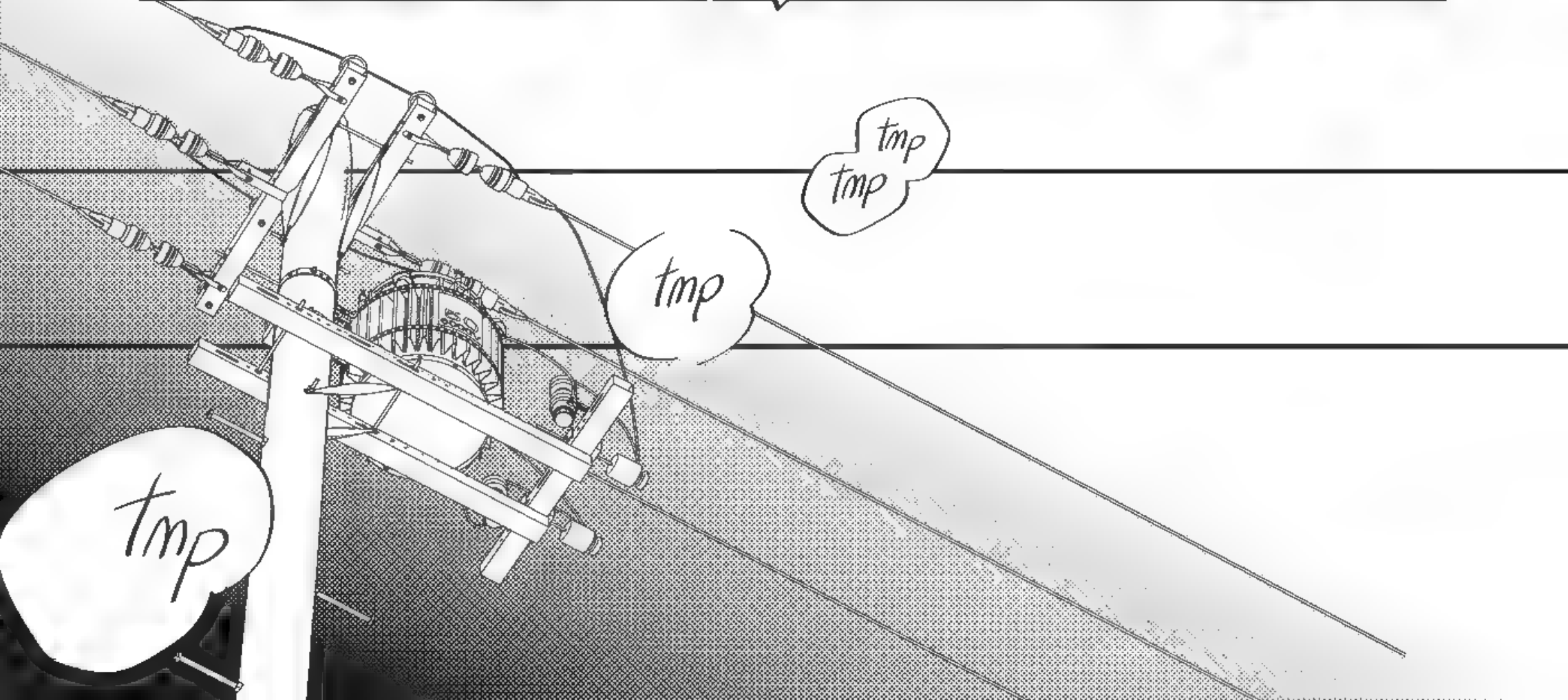
ARE WE
REALLY
GOING TO
DO THIS
SONG?!

NNNN

I
WONDER
IF
UENOYAMA
WILL
AGREE
TO DO IT.

...

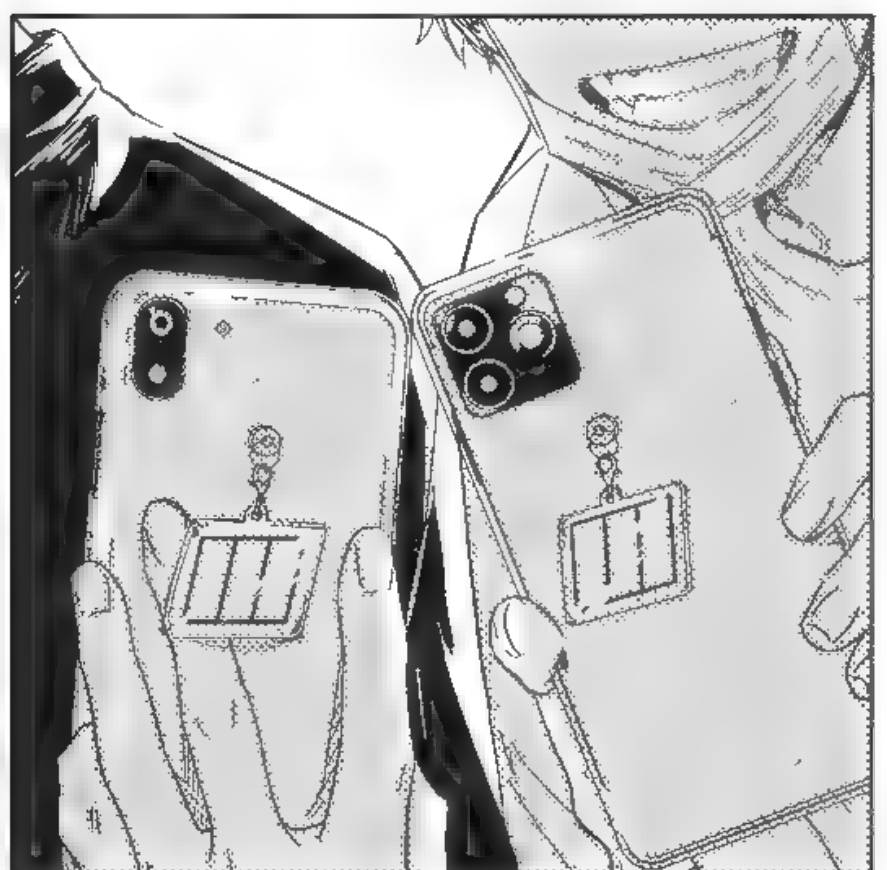








syh_hiragi



Shizu put one on his phone case too.



Hiragi Mix 4

given







---NOT
LIKE
YOU OR
YUKI.

AH---

tap



...BUT I
DON'T
HAVE A
CHOICE.


AS LONG
AS I CAN
REMEMBER,
YOU TWO
ALWAYS
HAD EACH
OTHER.

SO I
DON'T
EXPECT
YOU TO
UNDER-
STAND
THIS...

TO GET
WHAT I
WANT...

....I
HAVE TO
GRAB ANY
CHANCE,
NO
MATTER
HOW
SMALL.





I'D
EVEN
BE
WILLING...

...TO
THROW
AWAY MY
LIFE.

YOU
DON'T
KNOW...



...HOW
GOOD
YOU
HAVE
IT.





...BUT
HE WAS
CAPTIVATED
BY YUKI.

I DON'T
KNOW
EXACTLY
WHAT KIND
OF LOVE
IT WAS...

WHA...?

W...



HE
STILL
IS.

THERE'S
SOME-
THING
I WANT
TO TRY
WITH YOU.



I DON'T
KNOW WHY
HIRAGI
CONTINUED
WITH
THE BAND
AFTER-
WARD.

HE HAS
BEEN
SINCE
WE FIRST
STARTED
PLAYING
MUSIC
TOGETHER.



...BUT
ALL
THREE
OF
US...

...
REVOLVED
AROUND
YUKI.
HE WAS
OUR
CENTER.



IT WAS
ALWAYS
THAT WAY
WITH
US.

YOU
MAY HAVE
BEEN TOO
CLOSE TO
HIM TO
REALIZE
IT...



...IT
TICKED
ME OFF
THAT
YUKI GOT
ALL THE
LOVE.

SOME-
TIMES
...

YEAH.

STUNNED

REALLY
...?



Sigh...

...I
GOT OFF
TRACK
THERE.

BUT I'M
IN THIS
FOR THE
LONG HALL.
I WON'T
GIVE UP.



...IF YOU
CAN'T
COMMIT
...

...TO
MAKING
YOUR
LIFE
WITH THE
BAND...

ANYWAY,
THE ONE
THING
I CAN
SAY
IS...

IF YOU
CAN'T
COMMIT
TO UENO-
YAMA...

...THEN
FOR
YOUR
OWN
GOOD...

...DROP
OUT
NOW.







I HAD A
ROTTEN
LIFE AS
A FOSTER
KID.

I
COVETED
HIM.

I'VE BEEN
HUNGERING
TO
POSSESS
HIM ALL
THESE
YEARS...

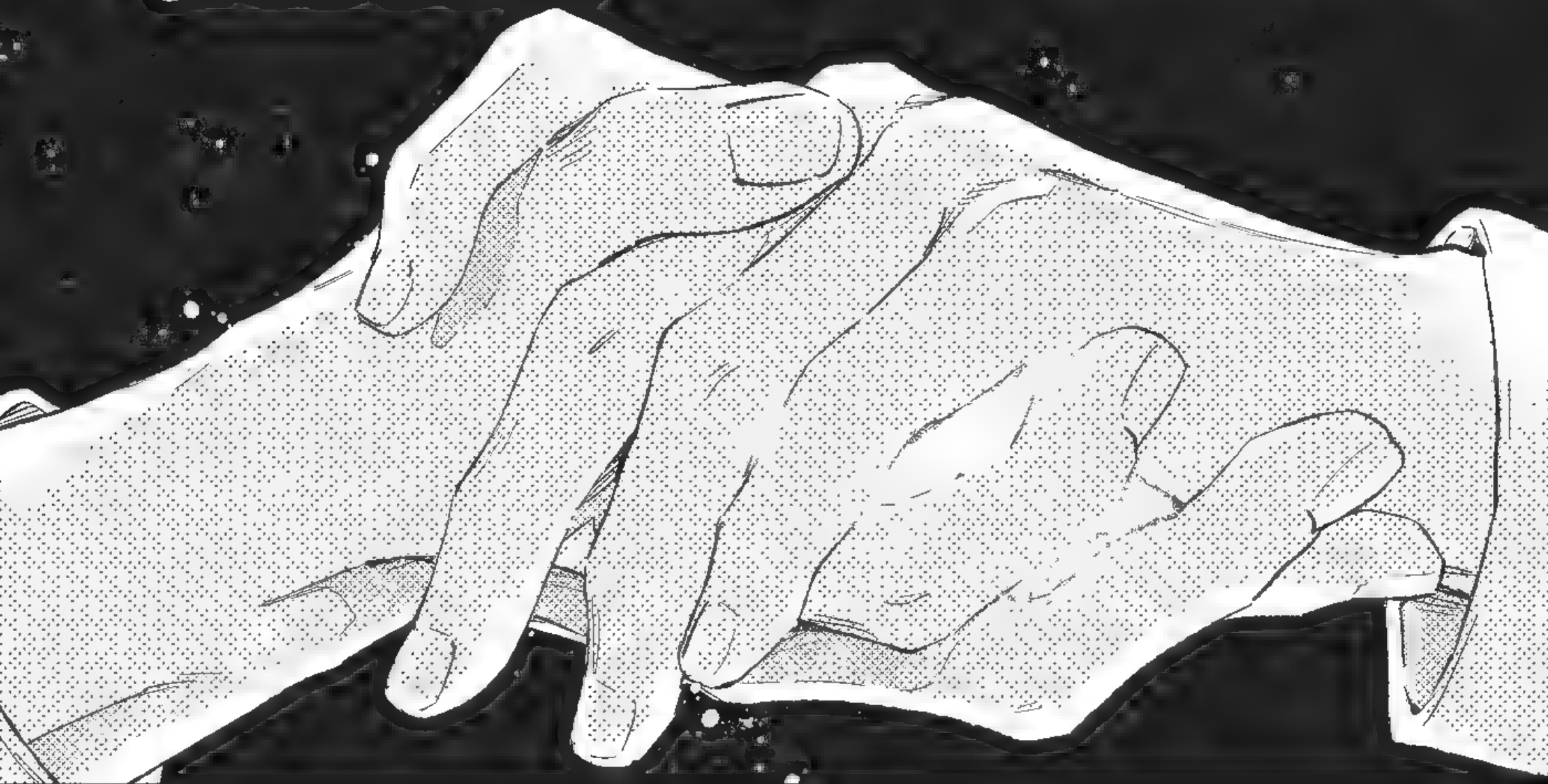
...HIRAGI
WAS LIKE A
SUPERNOVA
SHINING
IN THE
DARKNESS.

TO AN
EMBITTERED,
EMOTIONALLY
NUMB
WRECK
LIKE ME...



...FOUND
IN A
SANDBOX.

...LIKE A
GLITTERING
JEWEL...



I AM
ONE
PATHETIC
SON
OF A
BITCH.



DAMN.



given

by Natsumi Kizuo

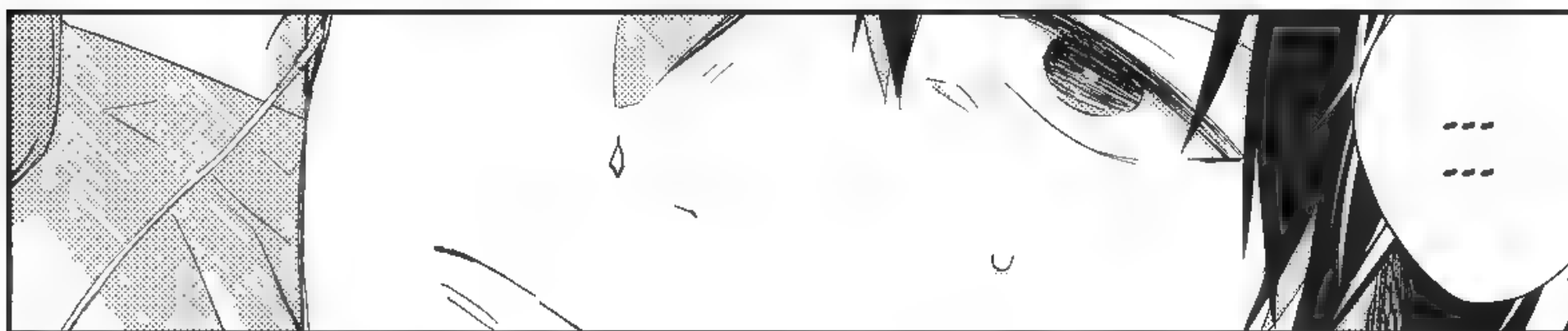
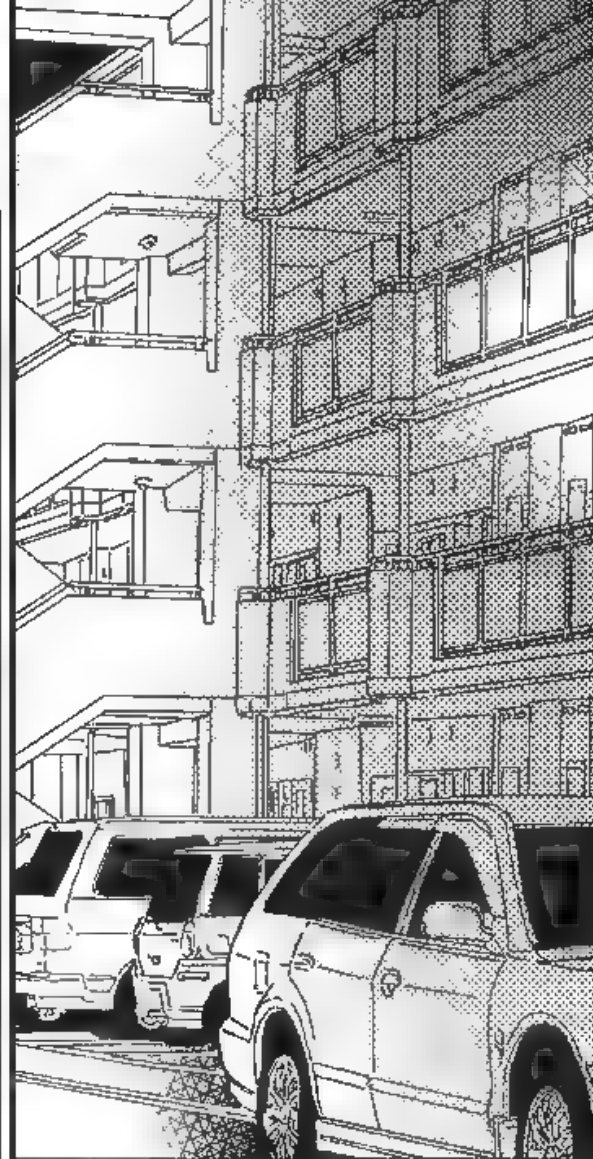
g i v e n

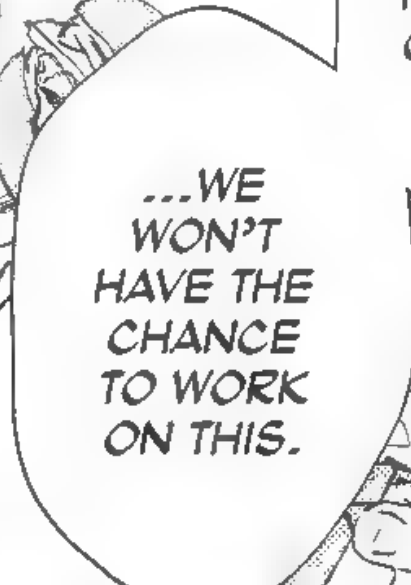
by Natsuki Kizu



Hiragi Mix 5

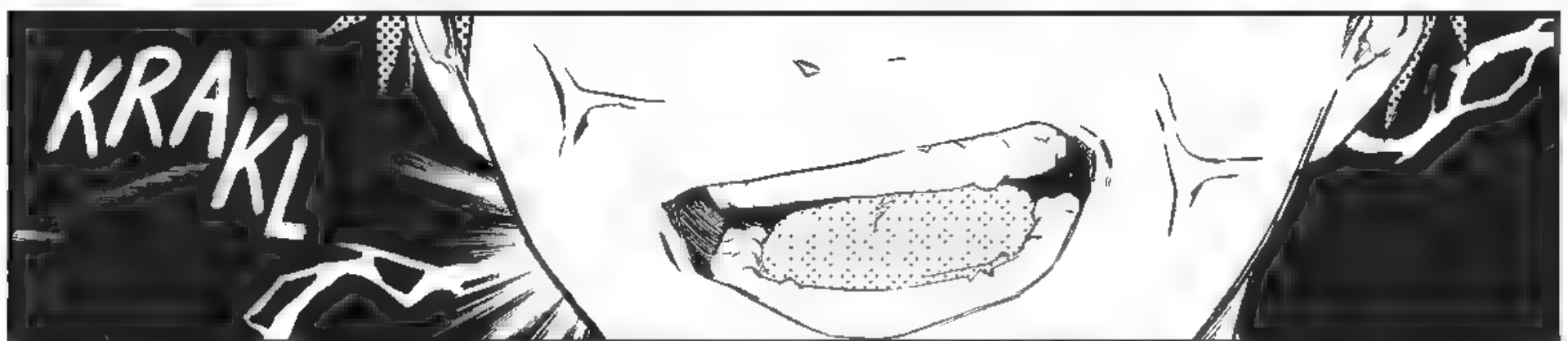
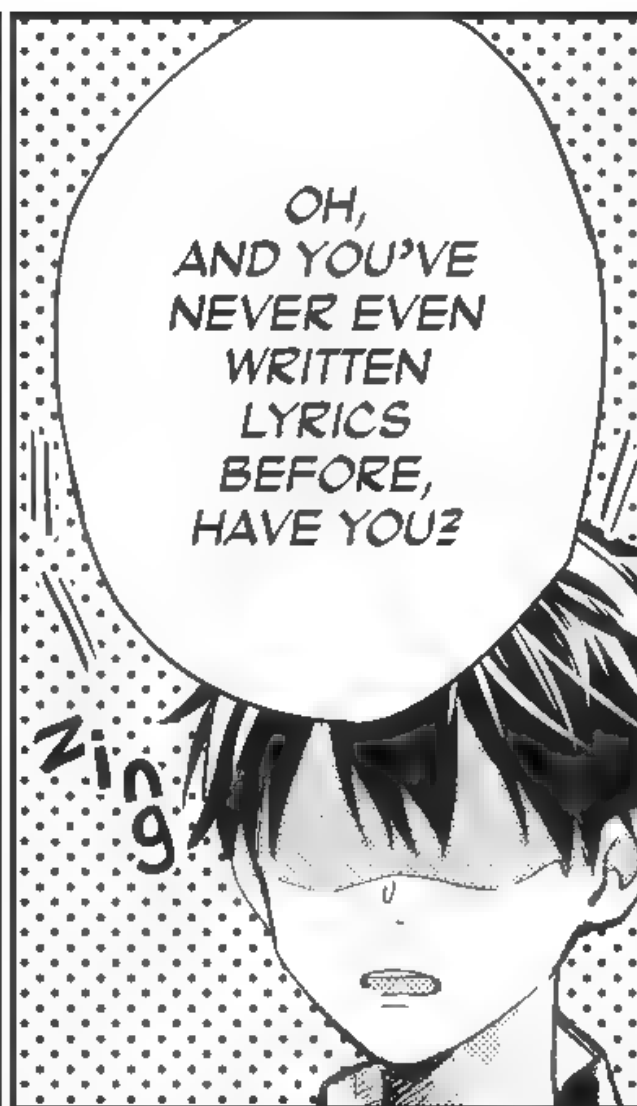
given





**Emotional
Land-
mine**







...THAT'S
WHAT I
THOUGHT
THEN,
BUT...

OR...



...THE
SONG
WAS
GONNA
BE LIKE
THIS.

I
DIDN'T
KNOW...



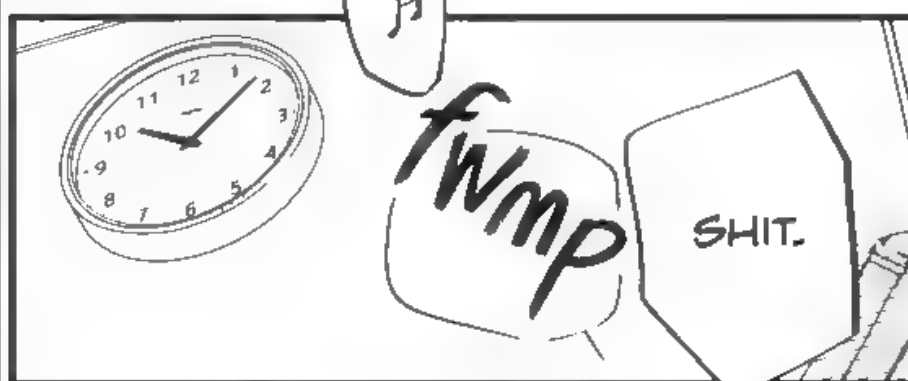
NOW,
I'M
NOT SO
SURE.



Hah



...



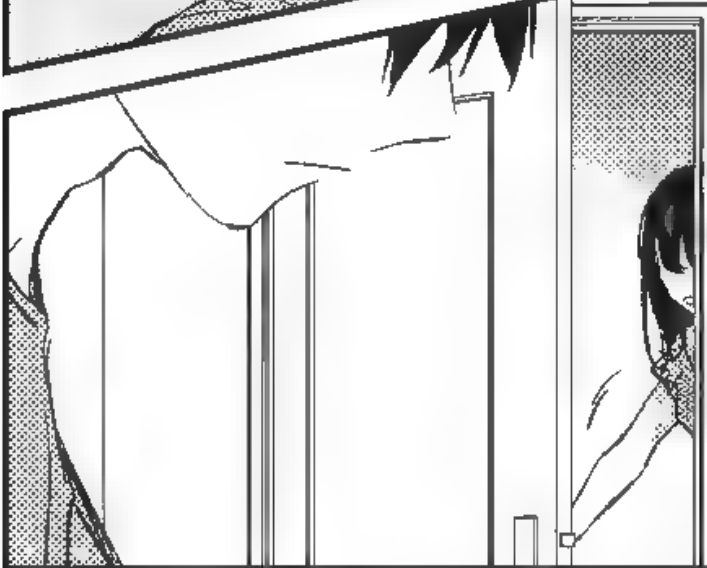
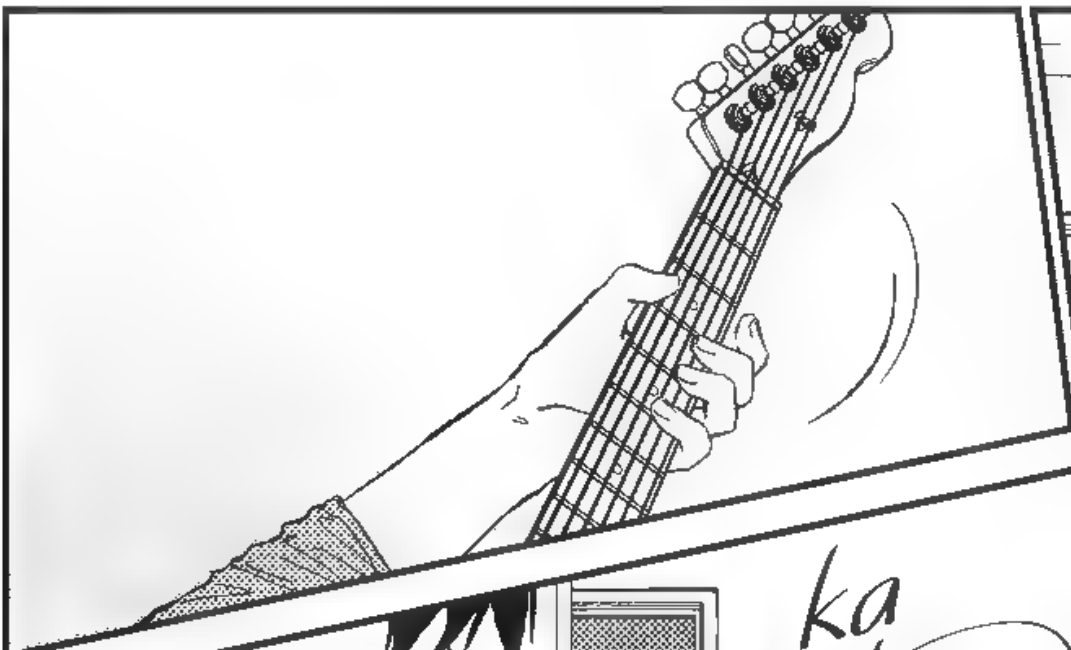
fwmp

SHIT.



I
STILL
DON'T
WANNA
DO
THIS....

...
BUT
...

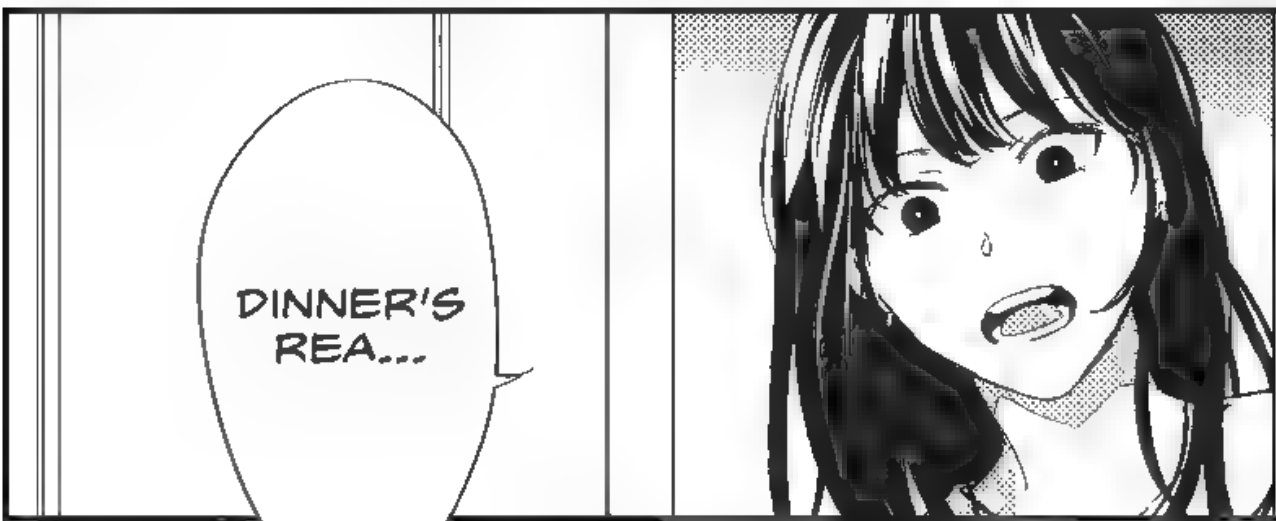


ka
chak

RITSUKA!

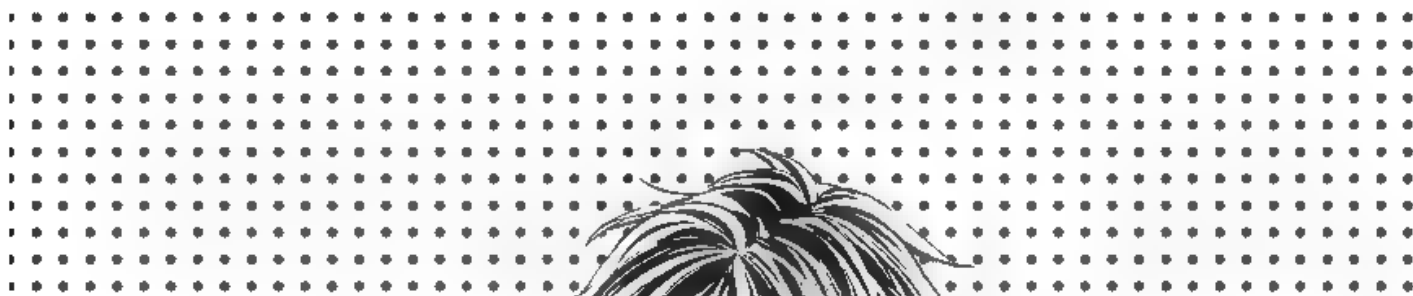
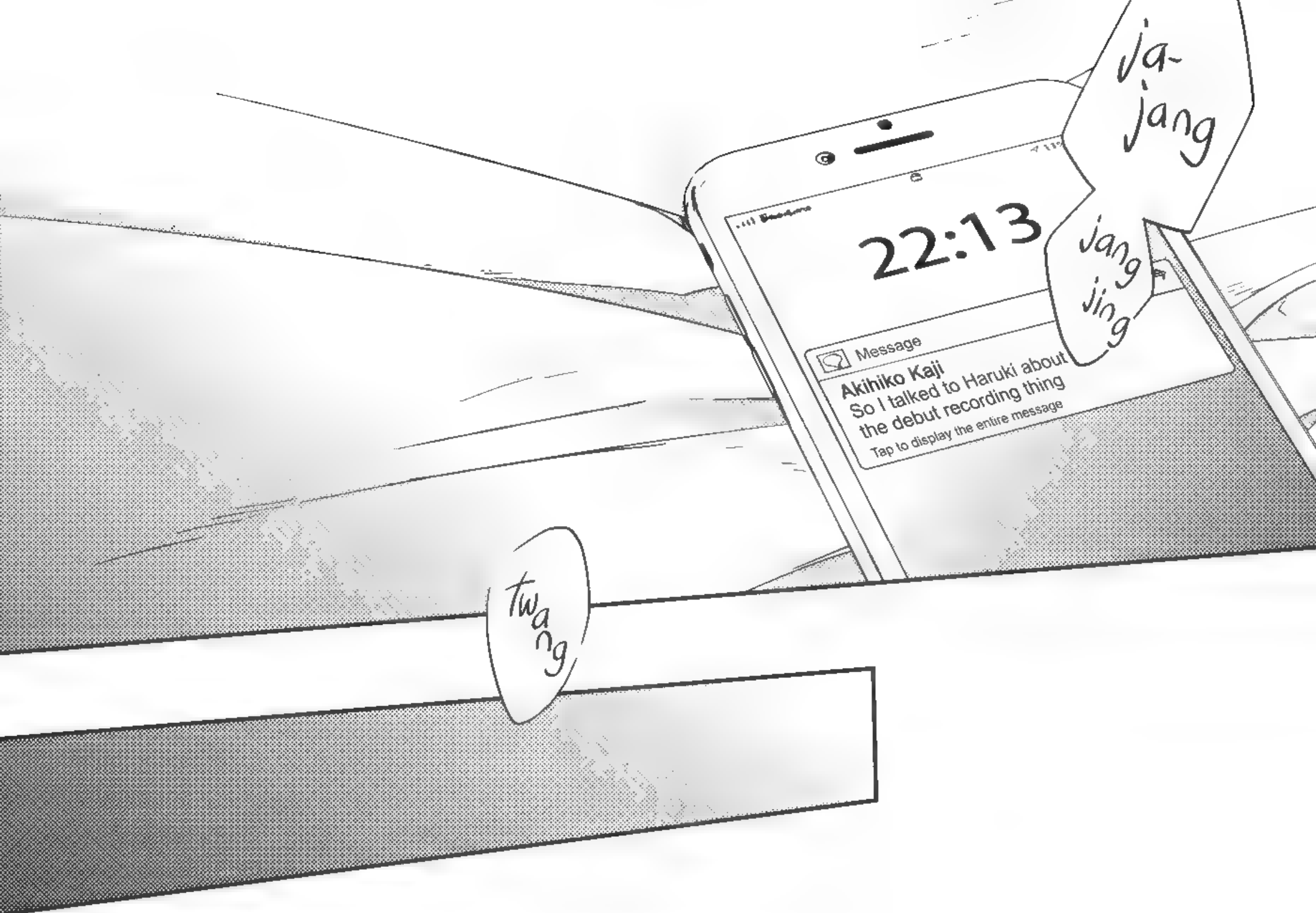
DAMN
IT....!

WSH



DINNER'S
REA...

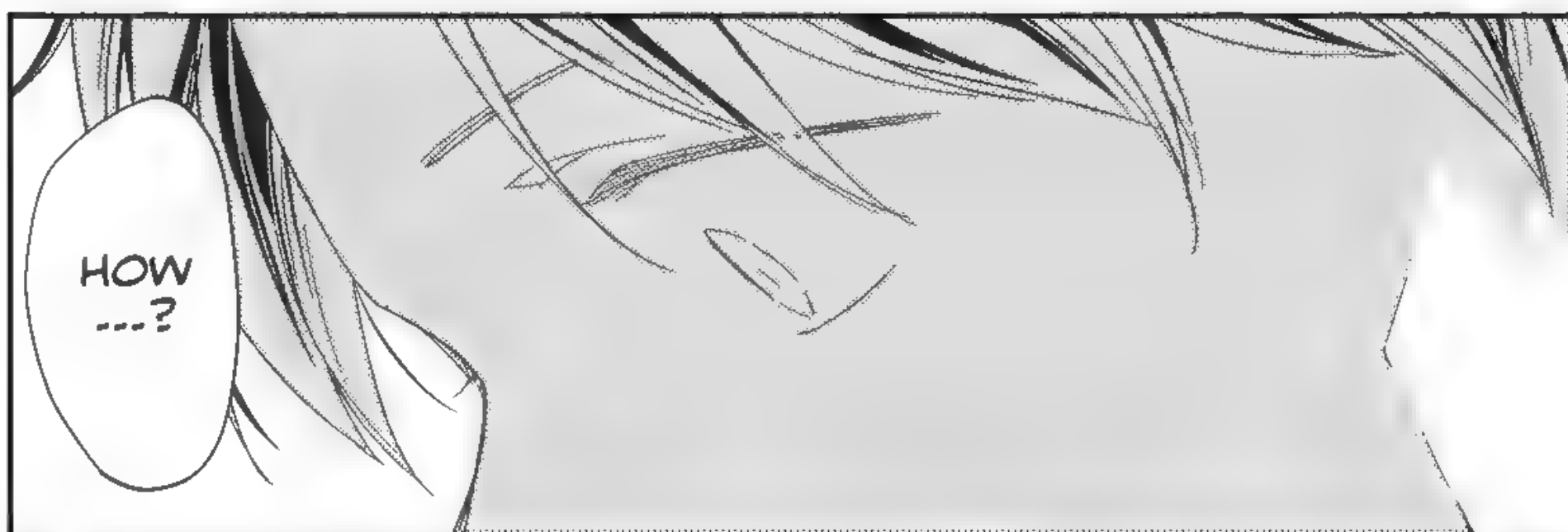


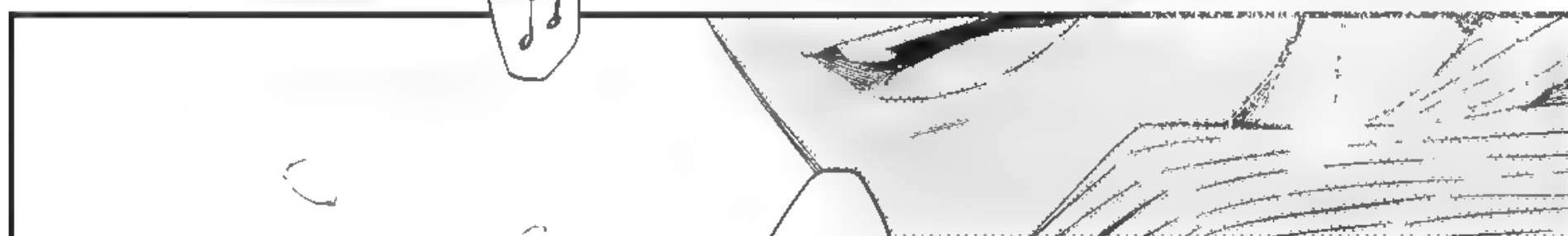












HIRAGI

...

HUH...
A SONG
BY THE
OLD BOY-
FRIEND.

NOW,
YOU COULD
PAINT
OVER IT
HOWEVER
YOU
LIKED.

I'M
STILL
NOT
SEEING
YOUR
POINT.

THAT'S
THE ISSUE,
BUT IT'S
NOT WHY
I'M IN
A BAD
MOOD.

SO
THAT'S
WHY
YOU'RE
IN A BAD
MOOD.

haggard

COME
ON, IT'S
ANOTHER
GUY'S
SONG.

THEN
WHY ARE
YOU SO
OUT OF
SORTS?

THINK
OF IT
LIKE
THIS...

LET'S SAY
YOU HAD
TO FINISH
SOMEBODY'S
INCOMPLETE
PAINTING.

OKAY.

BUT IF
YOU REDO
EVERYTHING
THAT WAS
THERE TO
BEGIN WITH,
IT'S MEANING-
LESS,
Y'KNOW?

OKAY,
NOW IT
MAKES
SENSE.

SO
THAT'S
WHAT THE
PROBLEM
IS.

IT KIND
OF
REMINDS
ME...

...OF ART
RESTORA-
TION.

...THAT
HAVE BEEN
DAMAGED OR
DISCOLORED
FROM AGE
ISN'T EASY
AT ALL.

THE
PROCESS
OF
RESTORING
PAINTINGS
...

WHAT
DO YOU
MEAN?

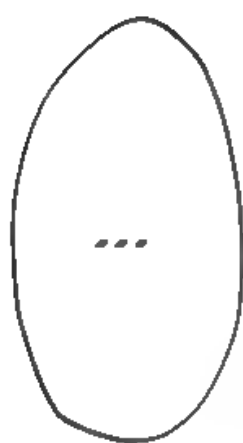
YOU NEED
TO HAVE
A SOLID
CONCEPTUAL
UNDER-
STANDING
...

...OF WHAT
THE ORIGINAL
ARTIST WAS
TRYING TO
CONVEY WITH
THE WORK.

IT
TAKES
MORE
THAN
JUST
GOOD
TECH-
NIQUE.



TO FINISH
THE SONG,
YOU HAVE TO
UNDERSTAND
THIS YUKI
PERSON
BETTER THAN
ALMOST
ANYONE
ELSE.



...TRYING
TO DO
NOW,
ISN'T IT?

THAT'S
WHAT
YOU'RE...



OH YEAH?
WELL, WHAT IF
YATAKE ASKED
YOU TO PAINT A
PORTRAIT OF
HIS EX-GIRL-
FRIEND?

**I'D RIP
HIM LIMB
FROM
LIMB.**

...

Y'know...
YOU'RE A SOFTIE,
AREN'T YOU?
A REAL SUCKER.

I hate
to say
it about
my own
brother,
but



WHAT
YOU'RE
TRYING
TO DO...

...IS LIKE
FINISHING
A LOVE
LETTER
FROM
AN OLD
FLAME.

SOUNDS
LIKE
HELL.



chashuyatake

...









I
ALREADY
HAVE
PLANS...



...TO
MEET UP
WITH
HIRAGI
IN THE
STUDIO.



...IT SEEMS
LIKE THE
THREE OF
YOU ARE
TOGETHER
ALL THE
TIME THESE
DAYS.

UH

NOT ALL
THE TIME? I
MEAN, ASIDE
FROM THE
DAYS WHEN I
HAVE WORK,
AND...OKAY,
IT'S A LOT OF
THE TIME.

twitch


I'M
SORRY.
I
PROMISE
I'LL
TEXT YOU
LATER.

...HMPH.



Hiragi Mix 6
given





I CAN'T
BELIEVE
HE NAILED
THIS
ALREADY!!!

HIRAGI'S
A BEAST.



TO BE
HONEST...


...THIS
BAND...

...IS
CRAZY
GOOD.



I
GAVE
HIM
THE
DEMO
...

...AND
LESS
THAN
TWO DAYS
LATER,
HE'S
GOT IT
DOWN
PER-
FECTLY.



THE THING
ABOUT
HIRAGI IS
HE HAS
NO WEAK-
NESSES.

BUT NOW
I'VE GOT
THE SAME
FEELING
THAT I DID
AFTER THEY
CUT A
COMMERCIAL
SONG IN
JUST A
COUPLE OF
MONTHS.

AT FIRST
I WAS LIKE,
"THESE
GUYS ARE
MARKETABLE,
BUT THAT'S
ABOUT IT."

A close-up of two characters' faces. On the left, a character with dark, wavy hair is looking down with a serious expression. On the right, a character with long, light-colored hair is looking towards the left with a slight smile.

AS FOR
SHIZU-
SUMI...

...I HAVE
NO CLUE
HOW HE
CAN BE
SO DAMN
SKILLED
ON THE
DRUMS.

A character with dark hair is shown in a dynamic pose, holding a basketball with both hands as if about to shoot. He is wearing a dark, short-sleeved shirt. In the background, two other characters are visible on a basketball court, and a basketball hoop is mounted on the wall.

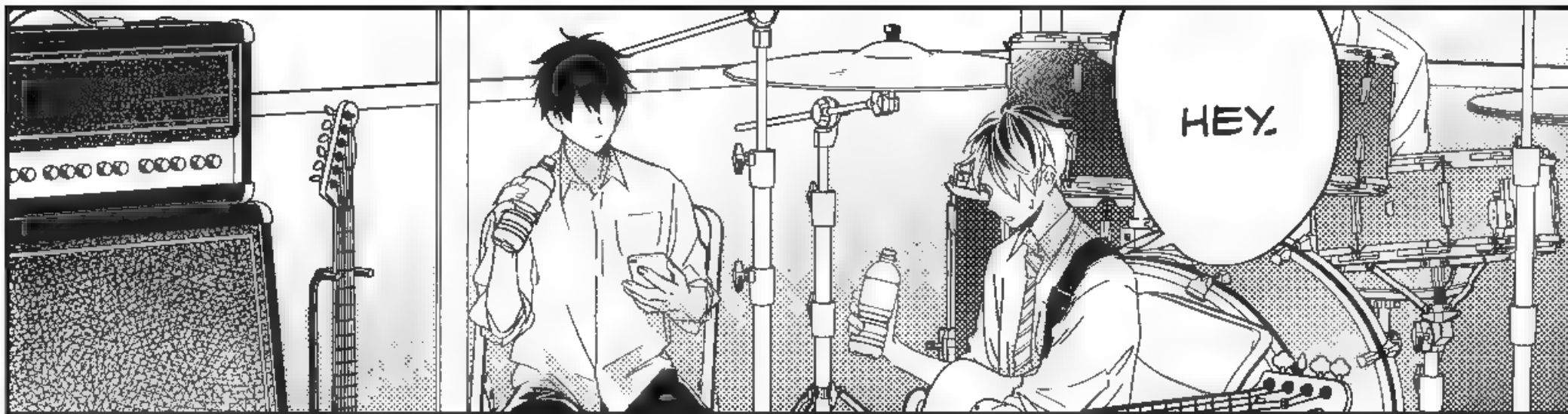
ON TOP
OF THAT,
HE HAS
A SHARP
SITUATIONAL
AWARENESS.

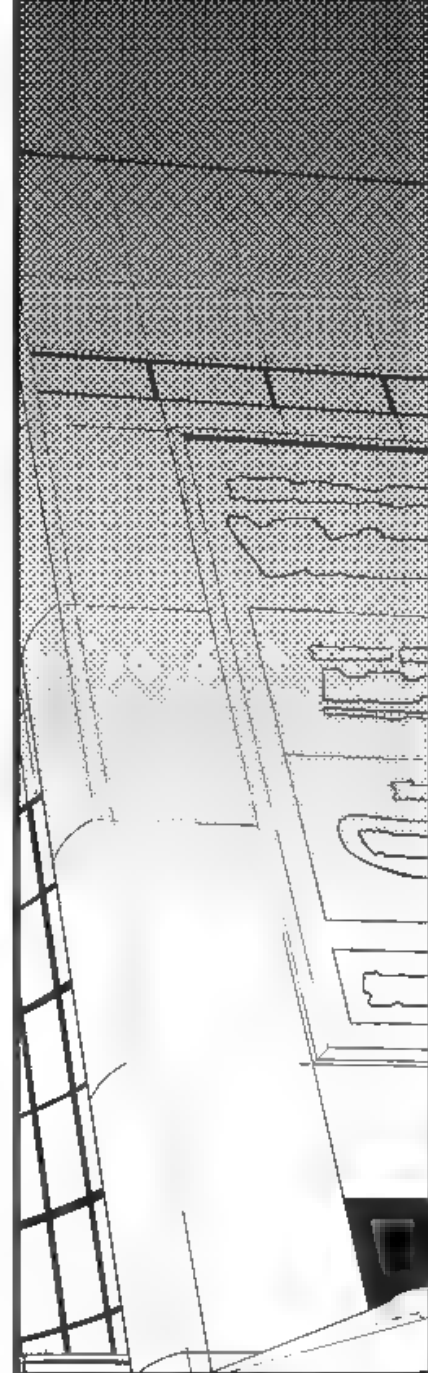
MAYBE IT'S
SOMETHIN'
TO DO WITH
BEING A
FORMER JOCK?
HE'S GOT
MAD WRIST
CONTROL AND
A GREAT SENSE
OF TIMING.

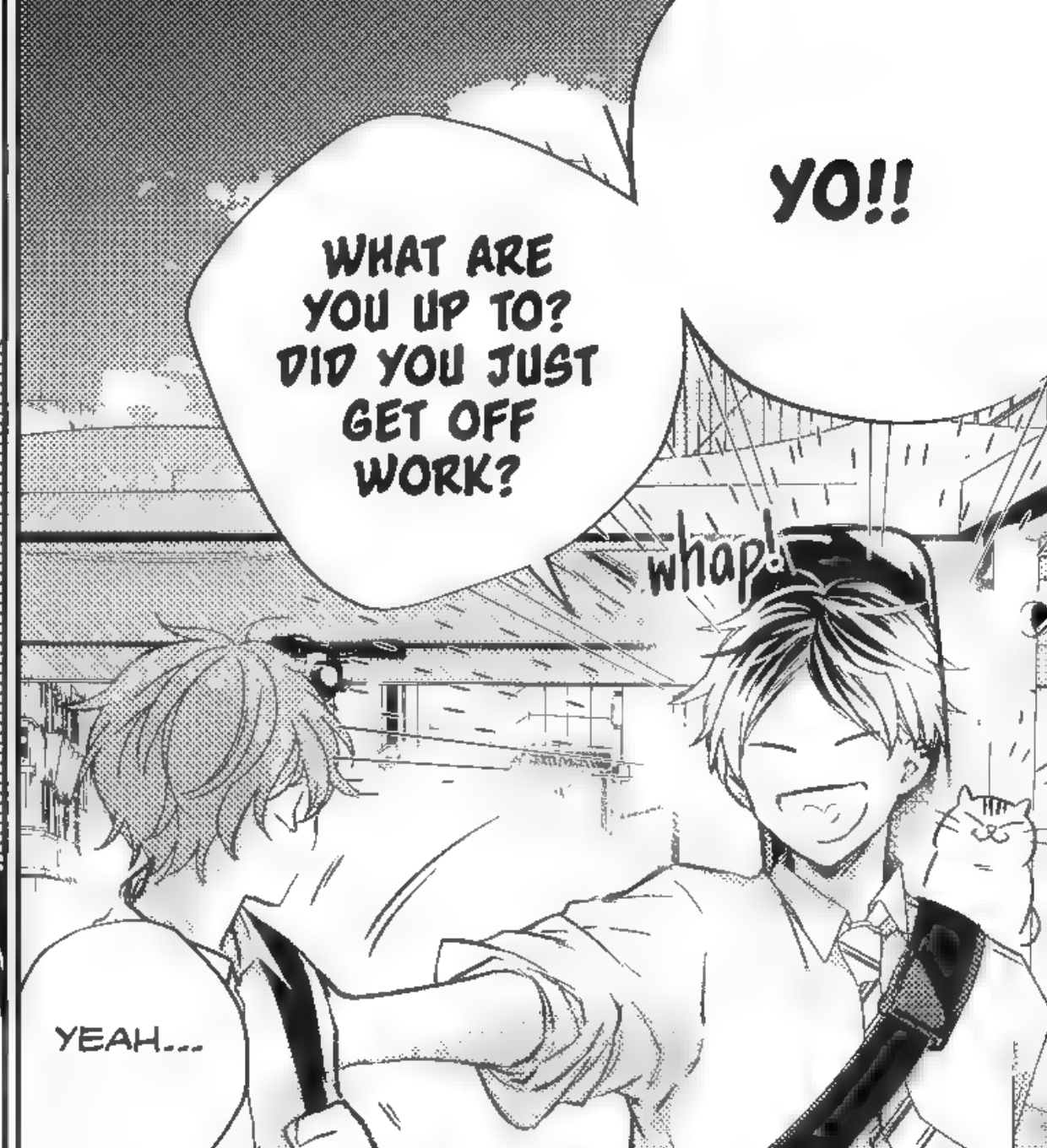
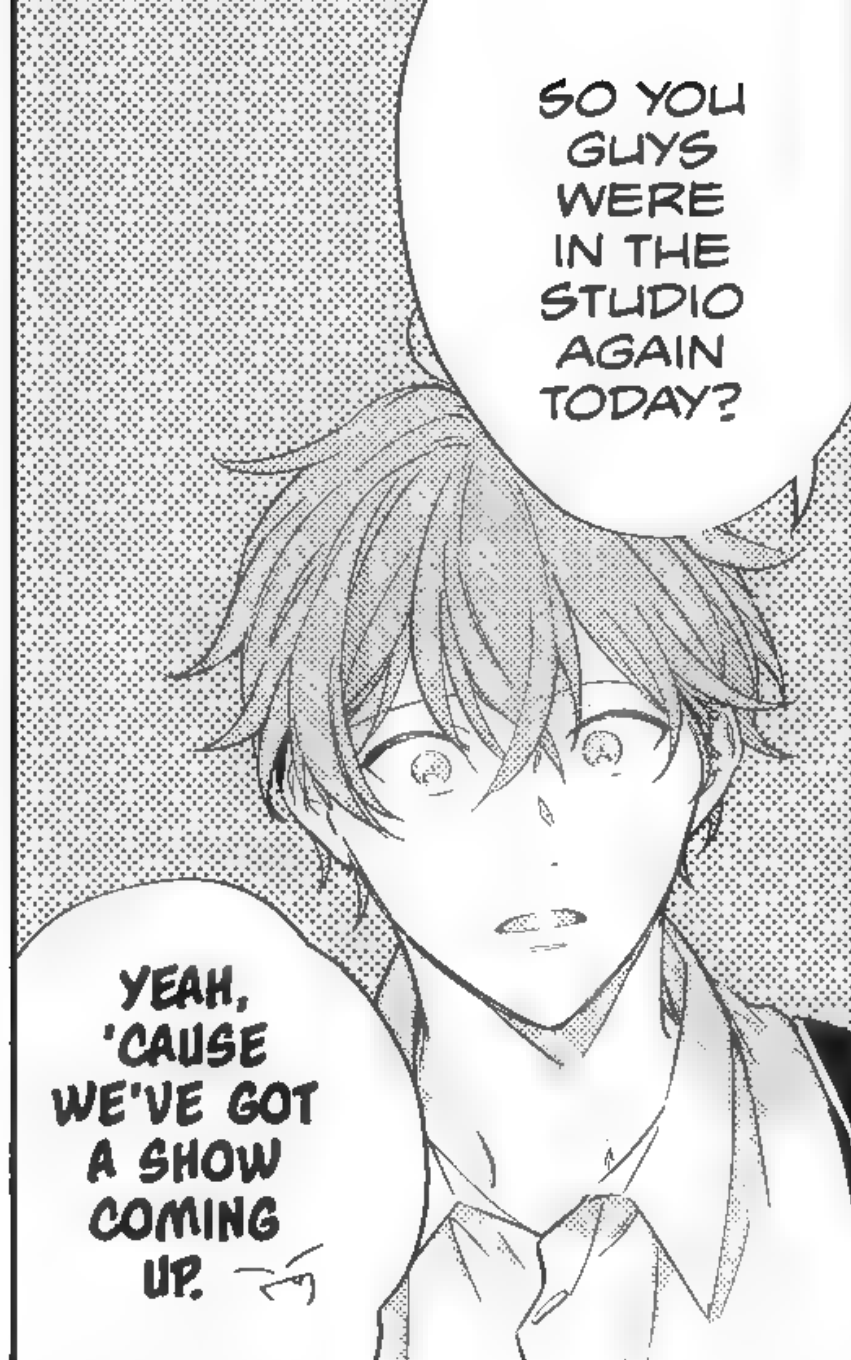
A close-up of a character's hands playing an electric guitar. The character is wearing a light-colored, long-sleeved shirt. The guitar is a dark-colored electric guitar with a pickguard. The character's fingers are positioned on the strings and frets.

AND
AS FOR
ME...

I WANNA
SEE
THIS SONG
THROUGH
TO THE
END.











AND
NOW I
CAN'T
HEAR
THE
MUSIC
WELL.

...AT
TALKING
ABOUT
THINGS.

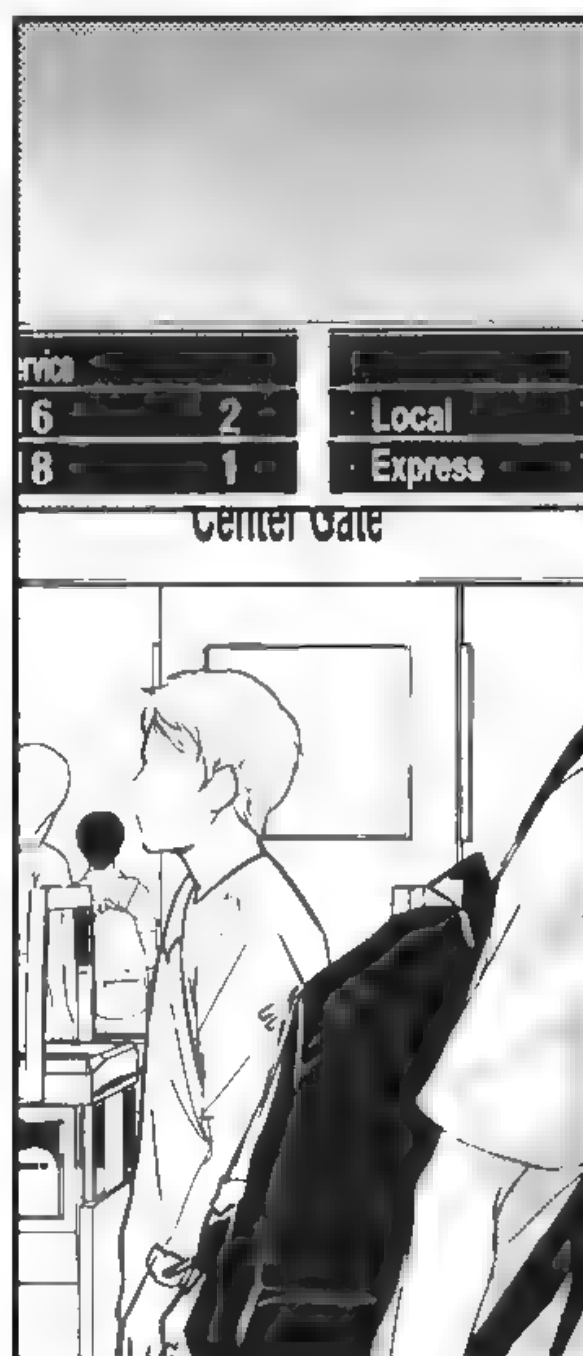
I'M
NOT
GOOD
...

...OR
WITH
UENO-
YAMA.

LIKE MY
RELATION-
SHIP
WITH THE
BAND...

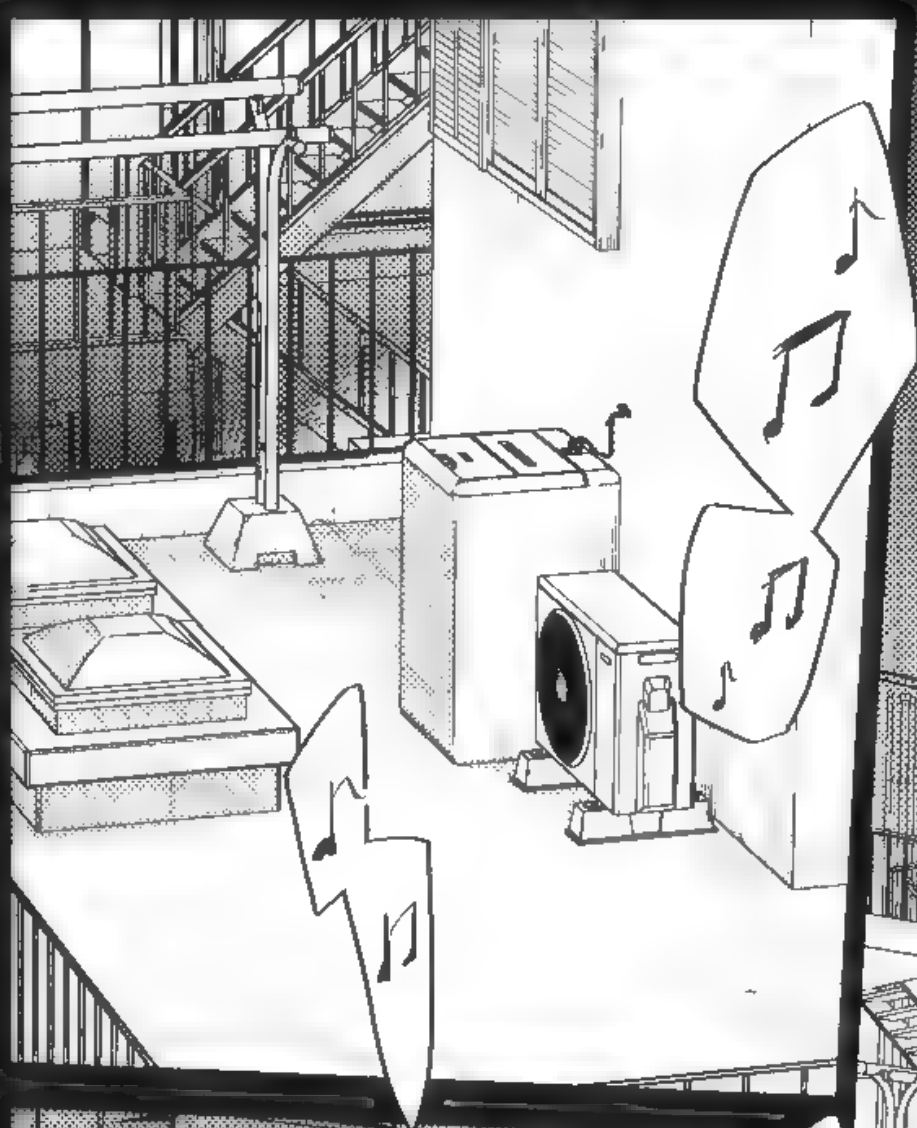
I FEEL
LIKE ALL
OF THE
SUDDEN
I'VE
HAD...

...A
BLUNCH
OF SCARY
STUFF
DUMPED
ON ME.





I'M
SCARED







To Be Continued...

given

(by Natsuki Gizu)

g i v e n

by Natsuki Kizu



Bonus Stories
given

Chapter 28 – The Inside Story



Second Time



The BF's Neighbor



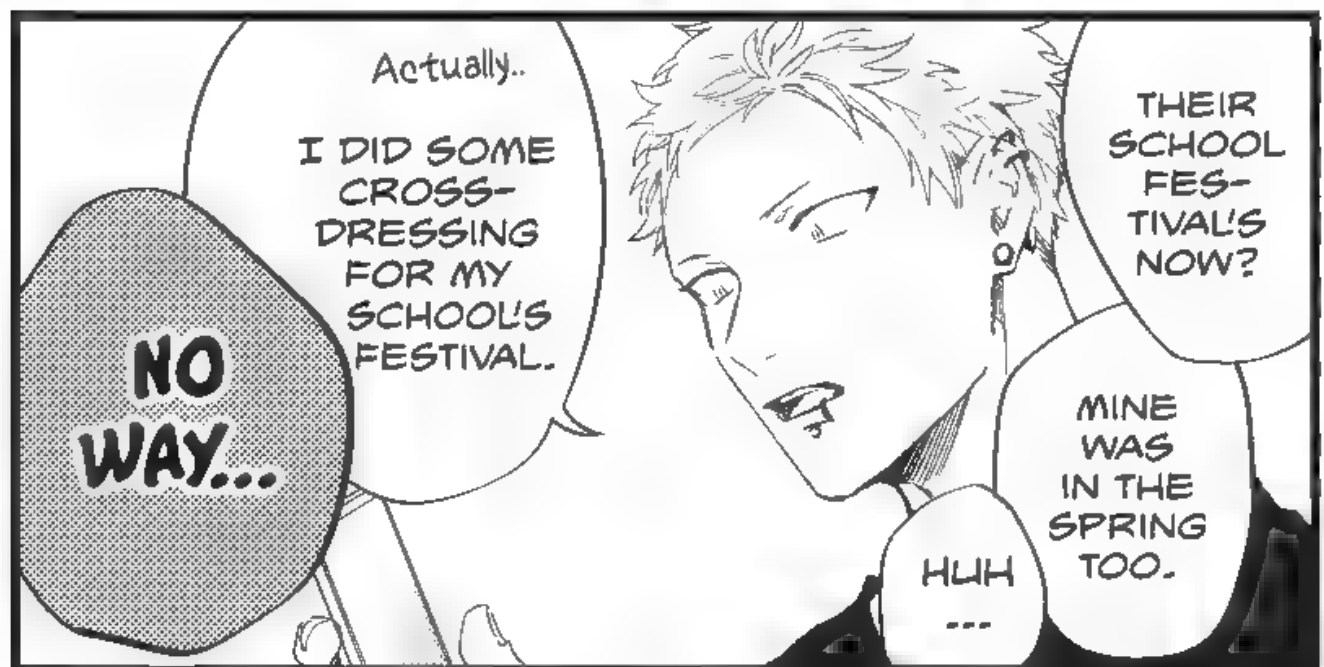
Birds of a Feather



School Festival 1



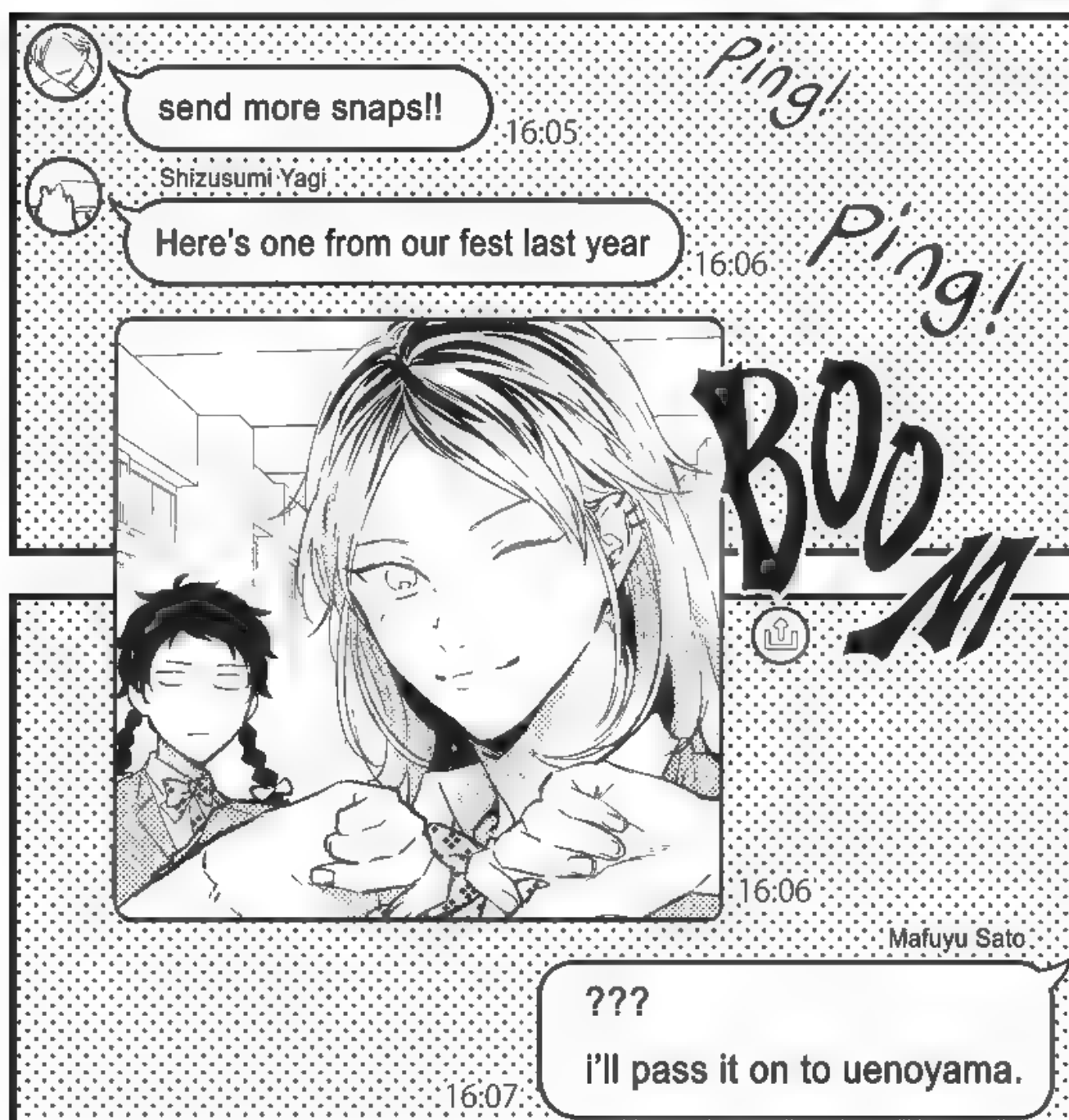
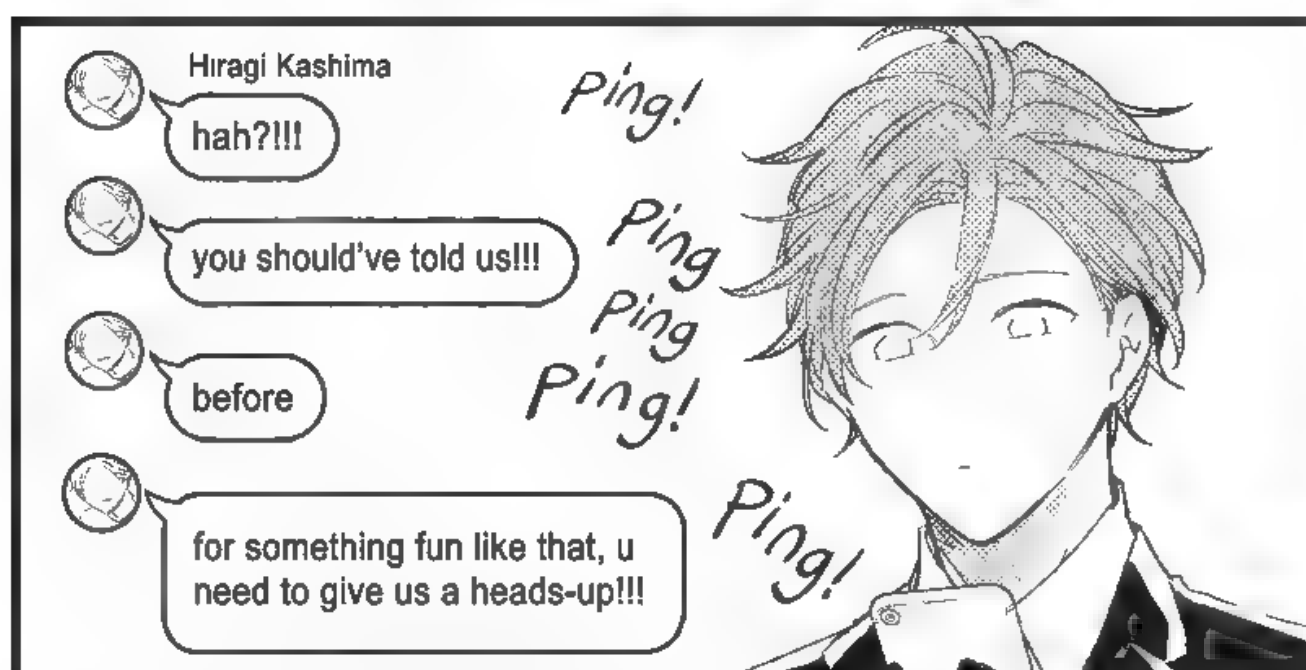
School Festival 2



School Festival 3



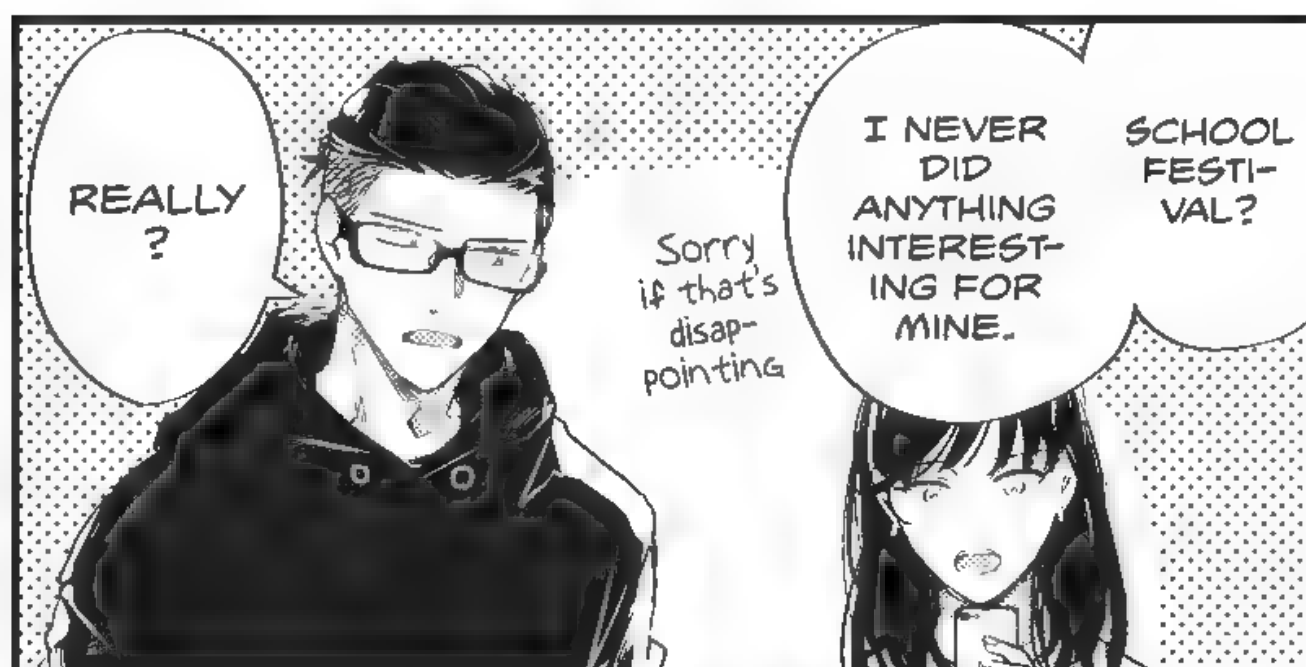
Why Do You Only Get Into It at a Time Like This?!



Ueki Gets the Last Laugh



The Destructive Power of the Uniform



g i v e n

by Natsuki Kizu

The Usual



▲ From "Hiragi Mix 1" Machida's The Play House

The real concert venue that's used as the inspiration for the one in the anime. I think that if you go there, they'll be kind to *Given* fans.

From "Hiragi Mix 4" ► Machida's emo torii

See... It's so emo!!! That's the only reason I used it in the background.

The setting of the title page art for both "Hiragi Mix 1" and "Hiragi Mix 5" is in front of Machida Station.





SPECIAL THANKS

Eri Hayashi, Rin, Ayaka, Matsushita,
Matsumura, everyone who helped with
research, everyone involved with this
work, and all of you readers!!! ☺

given

by Natsuki Kizu

given

by Natsuki Kizu

About the Author

Natsuki Kizu made her professional debut in 2013 with *Yukimura Sensei and Kei-kun*, followed by the short story collection *Links* and her breakout series, *Given*, which has been adapted into drama CDs and an animated TV series. To find out more about her works, you can follow her on Twitter at **@kizu_ntk**.

Given

Volume 6

SuBLime Manga Edition

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Editor—**Beryl Becker**

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PARENTAL ADVISORY

GIVEN is rated T+ for Older Teen and is recommended for ages 16 and up. This volume contains suggestive themes.

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